Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Iraq

AL-THAWRAH has denied reports that Iraq received financial and technical aid from the United States to build its technological institutions, INA reports. "Everything said about this aid is groundless...reports about this issue are false, as well as being absurd allegations and sheer fabrication," according to the paper. Meanwhile, AL-QADISIYAH has accused the Mosad and CIA "of planning the attacks which Iraqi pilgrims and others have faced in the holy territories," according to INA. The paper says the Mosad and the CIA "have ordered Fahd and his associates to repeat the attacks which took place against the pilgrims in the al-Mu'aysim tunnel two years ago."

Afghanistan

The pro-Iran, Shiite-controlled Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami party has been entrusted with the Afghan Ministry of National Security, Tehran TV reported. As part of a deal struck with the Afghan Jehad Council, the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami will also take control of two other ministries, according to the report.

Sri Lanka

At least 50 LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) guerrillas and 15 soldiers have died following a fresh offensive launched by the government in Jaffna Peninsula, AFP reported. Between 1,800 and 2,400 troops are participating in the operation, according to the news agency.

Syria

Commenting on recent statements by Israeli leaders on retaining the Golan Heights, Damascus radio called the remarks "ridiculous," adding that the Golan, as well as the West Bank, Gaza, and south Lebanon, will "return to their owners sooner or later."

Israel

Israel is working with the United States and other countries "to halt the cooperation between Western companies and Iran and Libya," according to HA'ARETZ. A "senior government source" told the paper that Israel is "deeply concerned" that Iran is expected to have a nuclear capability "within nine to 10 years." In another development, an anonymous "Syrian official" cited by YEDI'OT AHARONOT said Syria is "ready to hold negotiations on the joint demilitarization" of the Golan Heights with Israel "if Israel agrees in principle to withdraw from that territory." The official's statements "apparently reflect a change in the Syrian position," according to the report.

Palestinian Affairs

Mahmud 'Abbas Said Likely 'Arafat Successor

TA1106144692 Jerusalem AL-NADWAH in Arabic 10 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have said that there is an inclination to set up a three-man council, comprising Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], and Abu-al-Sa'id [Khalid al-Hasan], to assist 'Arafat in running the PLO's affairs. Observers note that Abu-Mazin has the best chance of succeeding 'Arafat because he enjoys broad Arab and international respect and because he is the Palestinian leader most supportive of the PLO's current political line. Moreover, he is considered the architect of the revival of Arab-PLO relations, even in their incomplete form, and especially relations with Egypt. Abu-Mazin is in charge of pan-Arab relations in the Fatah Central Committee. By virtue of his position, he maintains close ties with Arab leaders, including Jordanian leaders.

Abu-Mazin is well-known to some Arab politicians in Israel and has met with activists of the Israeli peace camp. He has written several books about Israeli and Zionist issues.

Habash Interviewed on Intifadah, Peace Talks

NC1106150592 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 8 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, by Muna Sukkariyah in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Sukkariyah] First, we wish to ask about your health.

[Habash] My health is improving. I have gradually resumed my work while following the advice of the doctors and my wife, or rather, the instructions of my wife first and the doctors second.

[Sukkariyah] It appears that the supervision of "Mrs. Umm Maysa'" [Habash's wife] is strict.

[Habash] More than necessary.

[Sukkariyah] Doctor, there are many painful points at the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. Which is the most painful point for Dr. George Habash?

[Habash] You mean from a historical aspect?

[Sukkariyah] Yes, in addition to the present.

[Habash] The most painful historic event was the secession [of Syria from the union with Egypt in 1962] and the 1967 defeat. As for the current situation and on the personal level, the most painful thing for me at this period is the plan drawn up by the United States, and tacitly by Israel, which clearly aims to liquidate the Palestinian issue. The real pain comes from the response or the stand taken by the PLO leadership on this issue; in other words, from its going along with this scheme instead of confronting it.

[Sukkariyah] Are there any prerequisites for a confrontation following the political collapses that have taken place and which have led to the establishment of a single order and a single power?

[Habash] Before getting into the issue of the need for confrontation and its prerequisites, I believe that we must ask ourselves the following question: What can result from the negotiations which have been planned by the United States? I think this is the issue facing every Palestinian organization and every Palestinian individual. In my attempt to answer this question, the first thing that comes to mind is that any negotiations will not bring results or that the results will be contradictory to the international, regional, Arab, and local balances of power on the ground. When we examine the existing situation and the existing balances of power, we arrive at a very clear result; namely, that these negotiations could not achieve in the smallest way the goals on which the Palestinian revolution has been based or the goals of the intifadah. The Palestinian group that is involved in this process sometimes recalls that Vietnam entered into negotiations and Algeria, too, but they forget the nature of the circumstances which induced the Vietnamese and Algerians to enter into negotiations.

[Sukkariyah] But Doctor, the circumstances are also different now in view of its tragic nature.

[Habash] Yes. I would like to explain that the Vietnamese went into the negotiations when the circumstances enabled them to achieve their goals. It was the same with the Algerians. But we had to control involvement in this process at this particular stage.

[Sukkariyah] I mean the circumstances and political changes which have compelled all the parties to agree to enter into these negotiations.

[Habash] This depends on the second question: Are we patriots or capitulationists? This is the fundamental question from which we must start. In other words, do we still remember the goals of the Palestinian revolution? Do we still remember our martyrs, or have we reached the conclusion that we cannot do anything except capitulate to U.S. wishes?

[Sukkariyah] How do you interpret the political action of the occupied territories' delegation to the negotiations?

[Habash] Nothing has resulted so far, not even a halt to the settlements. Some called for nonextremism because we want to halt the settlements. I personally met Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi and we discussed this issue. Their view was: We want to stop the settlements in any way we can.

[Sukkariyah] Do you believe their political thinking and feelings differ from yours?

[Habash] They were calling for pragmatism and saying that the Arab and international conditions are forcing us to enter into this process. They meant the points you referred to in your questions; that is, what can we do in view of the Arab and international situation? My answer to them was: Let us work to protect and continue the intifadah in preparation for escalating it. This will help create an Arab situation that will help us attain our goals.

[Sukkariyah] But, Doctor, the intifadah has been throwing stones in a particular geographical area for more than three years now. It has not caught on in other Arab areas. How long can the intifadah continue in this manner?

[Habash] This period is proof of our people's faith and their commitment to liberty and independence. We are a people who cannot live without feeling that we have the right to self-determination. By God, we want to struggle for one year, two years, a thousand years. What is important is to obtain our liberty. This is the PFLP's line which, one finds, enjoys the support of large sections of our people.

[Sukkariyah] By what means?

[Habash] By all means: political, popular, and military struggle, and the intifadah.

[Sukkariyah] Why do you reject negotiations as a means?

[Habash] We do not reject negotiations. We reject the U.S. course that they are taking. If you ask about the PFLP's views, as a substitute for the U.S. policy which we reject, it is the following: We will submit our case to the United Nations, which has passed clear resolutions on all the issues connected with the Palestinian cause. The United Nations comprises more than the United States and Russia, which has lost all its influence.

[Sukkariyah] But, Dr. Habash, there is no one in the United Nations except the United States!

[Habash] Regrettably... I admit that the United States, very regrettably, is the world's leading power. But there is a difference between having only the United States in control of finding a solution to the Middle East crisis and giving roles to the United Nations and other countries. This explains why the United States insists on having a monopoly in resolving the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Sukkariyah] Perhaps it insists on doing so because it has become the only superpower.

[Habash] Right, but we are advocating nonmonopoly against this monopoly.

[Sukkariyah] Apparently, Doctor, you refuse to acknowledge that there is no alternative power to the United States.

[Habash] I know very well that the United States is the leading power. I resist this situation, however. This is my position.

[Sukkariyah] Amid the prevailing frustration of the majority of Arabs and their regimes, when does George Habash expect to see the beginning of an attempt to change the situation?

[Habash] The first point is to specify our policy line and say that we want to resist. Without this we cannot achieve anything. We in the PFLP—and I would like you to make this point very clear—are now calling for mobilizing all Palestinian forces inside and outside the PLO to confront the U.S. scheme to liquidate the Palestinian cause and to extricate the PLO from this sphere. This is currently our chief concern, in addition to invigorating the intifadah.

[Sukkariyah] Does the Palestinian leadership inside the occupied territories—al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi—see eye to eye with you on this matter, or does it have a different view?

[Habash] Their political vision is, of course, different. But if we take into account all the Palestinian forces inside the occupied territories and add to that the position of the masses, then I can say that the PFLP's stance is the one that expresses the position of the majority of the Palestinian people. The PFLP position also expresses the views of certain other forces, including some inside Fatah itself.

[Sukkariyah] Do you still like to be called the leader of rejection?

[Habash] (with emotion) Comrade Muna, I am a Palestinian, an Arab human being. What concerns me is that you, Muna, and the Palestinian masses should understand the nature of the U.S. initiative's plans for the Palestinian issue, what our stance on this matter is, and what tasks must be undertaken to resist these plans.

[Sukkariyah] Did you meet with Yasir 'Arafat in Damascus recently?

[Habash] Yes.

[Sukkariyah] Did you talk about the Palestinian issue?

[Habash] Regrettably, he brought with him a large number of people, and there was no chance to discuss the issue.

[Sukkariyah] How does Habash see the present PLO status and political role? What would the PLO's fate be in the event of 'Arafat's demise, which has almost occurred twice? And what about the talk that the PLO and all its possessions are registered in the name of 'Arafat?

[Habash] Our position toward the PLO, particularly in the early seventies, could first of all be defined in light of the political stand. If we agree on this stand, we will

encourage the process of alliance. But if we differ with this stand, we will say so. There is a law that governs national relations within the framework of the national liberation stage. This law is called the law of unity and struggle. In other words, it is unity. Let's say unity. We adopted a stand like this prior to the events in Jordan in September 1970 despite the acute differences with 'Arafat at that time. But we placed all our potential at the disposal of the PLO leadership in order to consolidate the issue of unity.

[Sukkariyah] Has the issue of Palestinian unity become more complex than in the past?

[Habash] I am sorry to say that the feature of differences during this stage is a feature of struggle. Why? Because of the PLO stand on the U.S. plan. It is not an all-out struggle, however. This is because there is the issue of the intifadah, which puts the issue of unity above all other issues. We have differences over the political situation, but we join ranks around the intifadah issue.

[Sukkariyah] Who will inherit the PLO after 'Arafat?

[Habash] The Palestinian people. The PLO is stronger than any person or any organization. I hope we will not face this situation for many years.

[Sukkariyah] You have just said that you were pained by the secession and the 1967 defeat. In other words, you have been pained over Arab losses although you have Marxist ideas. How did George Habash take the news about the collapse of the USSR?

[Habash] It is a painful issue. But I believe that the local intrinsic factor represents the basis for serving our Palestinian objectives. I take the international situation and the powers which support our struggle into consideration, but I do not forget for one moment that it is we who will determine the fate of the Palestinian liberation battle and our pan-Arab slogans, including the slogan of unity, progress, liberation, and socialism.

[Sukkariyah] How did you take the news about the collapse of the Soviet Union?

[Habash] Frankly, and this is the truth, my daughter, I swear by my honor, by my daughters, and by the martyrs that the thing which has been established in my mind is that it is now time for self-reliance. Let's us pursue this road. As a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union and of the socialist countries, I was disappointed and I told myself: You have been struggling for 40 years to liberate Palestine and achieve Arab unity—what do you say now? I asked myself: Does the process of history proceed haphazardly or are there laws which govern this process? As a result of my thinking, I am convinced that there are scientific laws, and in light of this fact, I see that Israel is an alien body, an aggressor, an occupier in this area. We also have the Palestinian people, who are rejecting this body and are struggling to return. What would the results of this struggle be? In the long run I am confident that Palestine will be liberated, because this alien body is challenging Palestinian feelings and the Arab and Islamic nations. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi on Busaysu Murder, Legislative Elections

TA1106155892 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Ramallah—In an interview with AL-SHA'B, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, stressed that it is almost certain that European-Palestinian relations will return to normal by the end of the month. 'Ashrawi, who has just returned from a European tour, added that contacts are under way to repair the bridges between the PLO and the Arab states, which were cut in the wake of the Gulf War.

Regarding the Covenant of Honor signed by Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], 'Ashrawi said that that statement lays a strong foundation for consolidating national unity among all sectors of our people, just as it expresses the two movements' desire to coordinate national activities for the sake of achieving joint goals and objectives.

On the assassination of 'Atif Busaysu in Paris, 'Ashrawi said that that cowardly act was mostly directed against the peace process, and was nothing more than an attempt to silence any voice that calls for peace, whatever its source, whether inside or outside the occupied territories.

On the legislative elections expected to be held in the occupied territories in November, 'Ashrawi said they represent the beginning of the interim phase stipulated in the letter of invitation. 'Ashrawi stressed the necessity of providing international protection for Palestinians under occupation. [passage omitted]

French Gave Mosad 'Free Hand' in Busaysu Murder

PM1106145792 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 10 Jun 92 p 11

[Editorial: "'Atif Busaysu's Assassination and the French Government's Responsibility"]

[Excerpts] 'Atif Busaysu's assassination at dawn the day before yesterday in Paris cannot be anything but the work of the Israeli Mosad and its agents because Israel is the only party that stands to benefit from the killing of any Palestinian struggler who joins the resistance and fights for his people's and his nation's cause.

The Israeli Government chose what, for it, was the appropriate time to carry out this crime, approximately two weeks before the Israeli general elections, in the hope of boosting its popularity and appearing strong in the eyes of a large sector of the Israeli electorate that is eager to shed every drop of Arab blood, be it Palestinian or Lebanese. [passage omitted]

France bears responsibility for the assassination of martyr Busaysu because it gave Israeli intelligence a free hand on its territory but at the same time used all its

racism against [PFLP Secretary General] Dr. George Habash by denying him medical treatment on its territory in response to Israeli pressure and to please Shamir's government. Such submission to Israel and its demands is what encouraged Israeli intelligence to commit such a crime in violation of French sovereignty.

Algeria

Crowds Performing 'Id Prayers Teargassed

LD1106225192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] An atmosphere of total calm prevailed throughout the country during celebrations marking holy 'Id al-Adha. However, some tension was noted in the capital's district of Kouba, around El-Masjid El-Kebir in Constantine, and in another district, in Batna, where security forces intervened to disperse groups of citizens who tried to perform the 'Id prayers in public places, outside mosques, which contravenes the Ministry of Religious Affairs' statement banning the performance of the 'Id prayers outside mosques.

Concerning the events in Batna, near the El-Matar Masjid, our correspondent Abdelouahab Hannoun reported that security forces used teargas to disperse a crowd which tried to perform the prayers outside the mosque. The correspondent also pointed out that three days ago, posters were displayed calling on citizens to perform prayers in public places.

Prosecutor—FIS Leaders' Trial 'Will Be Public'

LD1106184692 Rabat MAP in English 1250 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Algiers, June 11 (MAP)—The trial of leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], to start this June 27, will be public, general prosecutor of the Blida military court told Algerian daily "HORIZONS".

The general prosecutor who ruled out a delay of the hearing said over one hundred witnesses are to be heard however, he added, it is not necessary to summon the Algerian Premier Sid Ahmed Ghozali as requested by the FIS leaders defense.

The military magistrate confirmed the transfer of French national Didier Roger arrested following the events of June 1991 possessing arms. He also denied having been subject to a kidnapping attempt saying "I have good relations with everybody".

In addition to president and vice-president of the banned FIS, five other leaders are to appear before the military court of Blida.

"Violence' Planned if Leaders Executed

92P40204A Paris L'EXPRESS in French 12 Jun 92 p 17

[Text] Concern is increasing among French and Algerian officials as the trial of two key leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], expected to begin on 27 June, approaches. This is when Abbassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, in prison since 30 June 1991, will be tried by the Blida Military Tribunal, 50 km from Algiers, for "instigating an armed rebellion against the State, creating an armed militia, and calling for acts of sabotage." The charges are punishable by death.

According to Algerian intelligence services, the FIS's reaction to the possible death sentences will be violent and will not be confined to Algeria. L'EXPRESS can also report that the FIS has already begun to set up action groups on our territory—and beyond,in Europe—to strike against Algerian officials, diplomats, or others in reprisal if its leaders are executed.

It was four months ago (on January 31) that an individual named Kamereddine, considered by French special police as one of the principal leaders of the "Afghans," arrived in Paris. The Afghans are Algerians—about 1,500 to 2,000—who fought the Soviets alongside the mojahedin. Most of them are back in Algeria and are now training young Islamists who are responsible for the increase in violent acts, which are covering Algeria with blood. The worrisome pedigree of Kamereddine K. did not, however, prevent him from obtaining and retaining without difficulty, authorization from the Val d'Oise police headquarters to stay in France. All of this even though an official note of 24 February 1992 indicated that "since 1991 the party concerned, according to his passport, had returned to Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, and Iran several times."

During March, Kamereddine had particularly helped Abdelbaki Sahraoui, a ckeikh from Constantine, a member of the FIS administrative council—now underground in Algeria—to return to Afghanistan, via Karachi and Peshawar, while assuring the dissemination of his messages and appeals among Algerian immigrants in France. But official services fear that the activities of Kamereddine and other Islamists of the same profile, recently spotted in the Paris region, might quickly go beyond the simple propagation of FIS messages by mosque sympathizers, and move toward pure and simple terrorism.

Egypt

Further Reaction to Writer's Assassination

Officials Attend Funeral

NC1006151892 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak deputized Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the presidential office, to attend Dr. Faraj Fudah's funeral and to extend condolences to his family—the first time the president deputized the presidential office chief to represent him at the funeral of a public figure.

The following also attended the funeral: Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Local Administration Minister Dr. Mahmud Sharif; Cairo Governor 'Umar 'Abd-al-Akhir; mufti of the Republic Dr. Sayyid Tantawi; several ministers and former ministers; leading partisan figures;

prominent thinkers and writers; and ambassadors of Arab and other countries in Cairo.

'Violent Confrontation' Expected

NC1106122492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] The AL-AHRAM WEEKLY today reports that Egyptian security services expect a very violent confrontation with the extremist Jihad Organization, which is thought to be responsible for assassinating secular writer Faraj Fudah 8 Jun.

The Cairo-based paper cites security officials as saying that the confrontation will be a decisive one, because—as those officials put it—we cannot let those terrorists continue their schemes.

Mubarak Telephones Saudi, Qatari, Bahraini Leaders

NC1106205492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today telephoned Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani; and Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. President Mubarak exchanged congratulations marking the blessed 'Id al-Adha. They also consulted about the current developments at the Arab and international levels and about ways to promote cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Bahrain in various areas.

Musa Says 'No Crisis' in Damascus Declaration

NC1106114592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1038 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that there is no crisis in the Damascus Declaration. There are various interpretations, however, and the last word will depend on a review by the eight countries that signed the agreement.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR to be published tomorrow, he said that things will be cleared up during the meeting of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers, which might be held right after 'Id al-Adha or at the beginning of next month.

He adds: During this meeting, we will listen to the various stands of the member countries. "We too will express our views," he adds, "but I wish to confirm that the Damascus Declaration has not been halted and it continues to be cooked over a low fire."

He points out that this declaration reflects the confirmed wish of the signatory countries to activate cooperation within a new framework following the Gulf war.

Musa stated that Egypt and Syria have no special concept regarding the security aspect of the declaration. He pointed out that there is understanding with Syria based on coordination among all. He said: We do not advocate establishing axes, but we are talking about a framework for cooperation among all parties through the Damascus Declaration.

Musa condemned Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and demanded that it be stopped, because "it poisons the peace atmosphere and shatters stability."

In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, the foreign minister stressed Egypt's support for Lebanon's freedom and wishes regarding its agreements with Arab countries. He said such agreements are purely Lebanon's business, and Israel has nothing to do with them.

He stated that if the Lebanese problem is presented before the Security Council, Egypt will support the legitimate government and will demand protection for Lebanon and respect for its interests as agreed on by the Lebanese.

About the current peace talks between Arabs and Israel, Musa stated that the mere continuation of these talks is a success in itself, because it points to the true intention of the parties to achieve tangible results in these talks.

The foreign minister said that nevertheless, there is a great obstacle before the talks owing to Israel's policy of not accepting the principle of land for peace. He expressed his hope that the ongoing talks will lead to Israeli acceptance of this principle.

Musa stressed the need to stop Israeli settlement-building in the occupied territories, because it threatens the peace process as a whole.

In this regard, the foreign minister stated that there cannot be any cooperation with Israel unless it withdraws from the occupied territories according to the UN resolutions.

Musa stressed the importance of the U.S. role in the peace process from the beginning, proceeding from the principle of land for peace. He pointed out the backing U.S. Secretary of State James Baker gave to forming a special committee concerning refugees stemming from the multilateral talks and U.S. support for the participation of diaspora Palestinians in the talks of the committees for refugees and economic development.

The foreign minister said there is progress in the U.S. policy toward realizing a just solution to the Middle East problem.

Regarding the issue of arms control and security in the region, the foreign minister stated that Egypt, in its capacity as a major power in the region, has pan-Arab responsibilities, some of which are to exert efforts to establish stability in the region. Therefore, it cannot accept the continuation of Israel's occupation of the Arab territories.

He said there must be some sort of balance regarding armament in the region so that no country will have the

intention or ability to own any weapons of destruction. He underscored the need to have the arms control committee talks proceed alongside the bilateral talks, which is as important as the other issues.

Concerning how to guarantee and secure Arab interests in view of the new world order, the foreign minister affirmed in his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR that "each country has interests that must be protected." He said: Our interest lies in resolving the Palestine question, ending the Arab-Israeli war on a legal basis, and guaranteeing that the Gulf states will not be subjected to any attack while taking the issue of progress into consideration.

Concerning Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Musa stated that there are differences between the two sides that must be resolved. He stated that pending issues will be discussed through the joint committee formed between both countries in its coming meeting in Cairo after the 'Id al-Adha holidays.

The foreign minister stated that Egypt opposes the secession of the south and believes that the unity, safety, and sovereignty of Sudan's territory is an issue of principle that does not need to be discussed. Egypt also stands alongside Sudan in ending the war in the south and believes in the latter's right to choose its own kind of government and to practice democracy the way it chooses.

Concerning relations with Iran, the foreign minister expressed his hopes that these relations will be positive and will proceed from respect, sovereignty, and cooperation between both sides. He stated that the region needs stability; economic cooperation needs to be given a chance on condition that there be no intervention in internal affairs.

Musa affirmed in this regard that there is Arab security and stressed that openness to outside countries does not erase our Arab identity.

Responding to a question about the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] slow pace in reacting to the tragedy of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, the foreign minister stated that this behavior could have been caused by the fact that the basic effort was directed at the Security Council, which has the authority to take punitive measures and pass binding resolutions. He stated that despite all this, the ICO should have moved more speedily to stop the flagrant aggression against a Muslim nation.

Musa highlighted Egypt's efforts to raise this issue in various international forums and to condemn Serbian aggression toward Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Interior Minister Remarks on Sectarian Violence

NC1206062192 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Jun 92 p 8

[Report by Hasan al-Shayib]

[Text] Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa stated that Muslims and Copts in Egypt live together in peace, cordiality, and good neighborliness. He stated that this is not confined to official conferences or mass meetings. It is true in every district, street, and building in Egypt and on every square inch of its territory, as shown by our people's history.

Musa attended the graduation of a number of officers from the Police Academy's College of Officers and Training the evening before last. In his speech, he said that the rumors and stories that have been published claiming that events in the country—most recently, events in upper Egypt's Asyut region—are the start of a sectarian sedition are completely untrue. He added that the police gain nothing by hiding or changing the facts, because they would be deluding themselves more than anyone else.

The interior minister said: We do not underestimate the danger of reckless behavior by some people, regardless of the reasons for this behavior. We realize the danger and are determined to confront it forcefully and strictly. The police play a positive role by confronting those who endanger our security with a persistent spirit full of challenge. Either the law will be enforced and the police will carry out their duties, as should be the case, or not.

Discussing the way some writers dealt with the events in Asyut, Musa said he does believe those writers created sectarian sedition or threatened national unity on purpose. But he stated that good intentions are not enough. If a national victim must be created in discussing this critical subject, an alert mind must be accompanied by a sound evaluation and a realization of the consequences of what a writer says or publishes.

Senior Armed Forces Appointments Announced

NC1106111792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0959 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA)—A number of appointments in high-ranking Armed Forces positions were announced today.

Staff Major General Hamad 'Abdallah Bijatu was made assistant to the defense minister. He was formerly chief of staff of the air defense forces. He was graduated from the War College in 1957.

Staff Maj. Gen. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im Mahdi was appointed assistant chief of staff of the Armed Forces. He was formerly chief of the Inspection Department.

Staff Maj. Gen. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Talib, formerly the chief of the Operations Department of the air defense forces, was made chief of staff of the air defense forces. He was graduated from the War College in 1959.

Staff Rear Admiral Yasin Muhammad Muhammad 'Ali was appointed assistant chief of staff of the Armed

Forces. He was formerly Navy chief of staff and was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1960.

Rear Admiral Ahmad Sabir Ahmad Salim became Navy chief of staff. He was formerly commander of Alexandria's naval base. He was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1962.

Maj. Gen. Muhammad Samir Mahmud al-Jayyar was appointed director of the Conscription and Mobilization Department. He was formerly director of the Military Archives Department. He was graduated from the military school in 1961.

Arab States To Open 'Doors' to Egyptian Workers

NC1206044992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] The director of the Consular Department at the Foreign Ministry said today that due to Egypt's efforts on behalf of the sisterly Arab states, these states have agreed to open their doors to Egyptian workers. The director added that 70 percent of the Egyptians who worked in Kuwait before the Gulf crisis have resumed their jobs.

The director said that the Foreign Ministry is following up the issue of pay owed to Egyptian workers who worked in Iraq, adding that the main obstacle is the Security Council resolution freezing Iraq's assets worldwide. She stated that Egypt is currently holding contacts with the International Labor Organization to protect the rights of Egyptians working in Iraq.

Phosphate Mining Accord Signed With Russia

NC1206052292 Cairo MENA in English 1206 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, Jun 11—(MENA)—Russia signed a new agreement to confirm its contribution to Abu Tartur Phosphates project in the New Valley [Al-Waid al-Jadid]. The agreement replaces the one signed before the demise of the Soviet Union.

Deputy chairman of the executive body of the industrial and mining communities' projects at the Ministry of Industry Dr. Ahmad Nawfal, who returned here from Moscow today after a tour which took him to Russia and the Ukraine, said that the new agreement, worth 600 million Egyptian pounds, same as the old one, stipulates that Russia and Ukraine export to Egypt 80 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, of equipment needed for the project without any increase in prices set in the old agreement. According to the agreement, 15 per cent of the costs of the equipment will be repaid by Egypt in foreign currencies. The rest of the money will be repaid in the form of barter deals between Egypt and Russia and Ukraine. The total costs of Abu Tartur project is put at L.E. [Egyptian pounds] two billion. Abu Tartur mines are expected to give an annual production of 2.2 billion tonnes of Phosphates. The mines will start production after three years.

U.S. Security Accords With Gulf States Questioned

NC1206070192 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Jun 92 p 14

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] In its session last Saturday, the Qatari Consultative Council endorsed a defense cooperation agreement between Qatar and the United States. Three Gulf states have now signed "security agreements" with the United States, including Kuwait and Bahrain.

It seems that the Qatari Consultative Council deliberately timed its ratification of the accord to come shortly before the scheduled meeting of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers, as if Qatar wanted to demonstrate that "Washington comes first," as Kuwait did before. Kuwait, however, had the excuse of being subjected to a treacherous aggression, and the United States led the campaign to liberate it from the heavy nightmare of occupation.

Personally, I disagree with those who say that the security agreement with the United States does not contradict the Damascus Declaration. This is something which most Gulf are saying repeatedly, but is, regrettably, not realistic. The question must be answered: "Why insist on postponing the Damascus Declaration?"

After ratifying the defense accord, the Qatari Consultative Council issued a statement, saying: "Recent events in the Gulf region required that this accord be signed. This accord is the first step in consolidating regional security and stability, within the context of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] strategy to confront threats against its members."

It is clear that the GCC states agree, at least in principle, on the need to conclude bilateral security agreements with the United States. These accords guarantee their security and stability; anything else comes second or third. I expect that a total of six accords will be signed, as the Gulf Cooperation Council includes Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

In a statement on the new agreement, Ahmad Bin-'Abdallah Al Mahmud, Qatari Foreign Ministry under secretary, said that Gulf security hinges on "a fine equation" that requires wisdom, frankness, and farsightedness.

So tell us frankly, do you support the Damascus Declaration or would you prefer to cancel it? Sitting on the fence is unacceptable in politics or anywhere else. We are awaiting the outcome of the meeting of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers.

'Sensitivity' With Damascus Declaration Viewed

NC1206073592 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Jun 92 p 9

[Article by Ihsan Bakr: "Gulf Apprehensions"]

[Excerpts] Defending Gulf security is the responsibility of the Gulf states, but their national security is also an indivisible part of pan-Arab security. Full respect for Arab legitimacy is the only guarantee for the Arabs that an aggression like Iraq's invasion of Kuwait will not happen again. When the omens of danger loomed, when their soil was being pressed by Iraqi tanks, the Kuwaiti Arab people saw Egypt and Syria come to their rescue without hesitation. More than a year has passed since the Damascus Declaration was issued, but its fate remains in doubt at the Gulf, Arab, and regional levels. [passage omitted]

The nonimplementation of the Damascus Declaration, to be very clear and frank, is due to the fact that the situation in the Arab world has changed since the Gulf war. Some Gulf states took a second look at the Damascus Declaration because of these changes, which they did not expect at the height of their enthusiasm for the declaration. The Iraqi president remains in power, meaning there is a pressing need for a large number of highly effective troops to deal with any eventuality. The presence of Arab troops in the region, we must admit, causes some sensitivity for the Gulf states, because it could lead to political influence. The presence of troops from the major powers, specially the United States and Britain, does not generate any such sensitivity, because these countries already have influence. Their fleets are only a stone's throw from the Gulf states' shores. Based on this point, Kuwait entered negotiations with the United States that resulted in a 10-year security pact, signed in Washington in late September 1991. Under the pact, the United States pledged to defend Kuwait against any foreign aggression. Bahrain signed a similar deal with the United States. It is as if some Gulf states are saying that since the United States and Britain are the ones who liberated Kuwait, we need to rely on the trunk rather than the branch!

Two neighboring countries, Iran and Turkey, now play a major role in the region. Turkey, for instance, has given itself a free hand to chase the Kurds in Iraq and is in full control of the Tigris and Euphrates river water. It is also participating in a new plan being drafted for the region and is openly threatening to use military force against Kurdish rebels in the al-Biqa' Valley. It was a direct threat against Lebanon, with very clear warnings to Syria.

Iran has long been present in the heart of the Arab nation. We have to admit that many Arab issues are decided with the Iranians in mind. Security agreements have stumbled and continue to stumble because of the Iranian role; civil wars are being fought with Iranian weapons under Tehran's direction, and Arab islands are being swallowed and placed under Iranian control. Thus, the Iranian role could be one of the reasons the Damascus Declaration is stumbling. This declaration was drafted on the basis of Arab solidarity, and Iranian participation in any security arrangements in the Gulf could contradict this. We have to consider that Iran objected to the Damascus Declaration from the moment it was signed, claiming that it includes parties that are not part of the Gulf—meaning Egypt—in the region's security arrangements.

The two neighboring countries, Iran and Turkey, have started to play an undeniable role in regional arrangements, and the Damascus Declaration runs contrary in many ways to this. There is a faction in the Gulf that calls for avoiding new conflicts with Ankara and Tehran and another that calls for a merger or assimilation by groups or communities in these countries. [passage omitted]

We have to acknowledge these sensitivities, particularly about the presence of large numbers of Egyptian and Syrian troops in the Gulf. We have to acknowledge the apprehensions of the people in the Gulf, or at least some of them, who fear an Arab presence in the Gulf, because past experience is not very encouraging. At the same time, however, our brothers in the Gulf must realize that were it not for the effective role of Egypt and Syria, or the prominent Saudi role supporting Kuwait's legitimacy from the first day of the crisis, it would not have been possible to repulse the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

The issue of security arrangements in the Gulf will continue for some time, until the Gulf states agree on a clear and specific concept. But the undeniable and obvious fact is that Gulf security is an inseparable part of pan-Arab security, whether some people like it.

Arab Solidarity in 'Fateful Time' Called For

NC1106093592 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 8 Jun 92 p 9

[Editorial: "A Fateful Time"]

[Text] The Arab situation—characterized by extreme violence—heralds dangers, the effects of which no Arab country will escape, however much it thinks it can protect itself by the strength of its views and resources. Regrettably, we live in this situation almost two years after the Gulf war, despite the belief that the Arab world absorbed the lessons of this war.

Today, some Arab parties might not feel certain about Arab solidarity, but to be pleased by this feeling finds them detached from reality, making choices, the negative impact of which might not affect them but will their future generations. The crisis is temporary, and conditions will change. Farsighted views will survive over narrow interests. Some may feel that picking the scab off the wounds is the right way to genuine Arab solidarity; revealing the reasons behind Arab crises and making it possible to treat them, righting the Arab situation. Picking the scab off Arab wounds will only add fat to the fire. Better to clean the wounds, which, however, can only occur through dialogue and by restoring the basis of Arab solidarity.

It is a difficult task, but it is possible if there is good will. The Arab masses expected the Damascus Declaration to

open the way to restoring Arab solidarity. It is time to stop hesitating over the implementation of this declaration for the sake of the eight members' interests and the major Arab interest. Until these states' foreign ministers meet, it is no exaggeration to say that it is a fateful time for the general Arab situation.

UN Should Help Supervise Palestinian Election

NC1106061992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0425 GMT 11 Jun 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR's editorial today focuses on the elections the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are preparing for in October. The paper says the Palestinians demand that these elections be supervised by the United States and Russia as the cosponsors of the peace talks and march.

The United Nations must also be invited to supervise the elections, because the Israeli occupying party—by nature of the situation—can prevent these elections or even forge the results. Israel opposes these elections and insists that the Palestinians can have limited autonomy; in other words, they can have the privilege of controlling certain nonpolitical affairs. Israel believes it has sovereignty over the land and considers Palestinians mere residents in regions where they are a majority. Therefore, they have the right to control some aspects of local government.

The paper draws attention to the Palestinian viewpoint, proceeding from holding political elections that are in line with the concept of the Palestinian people's political rights. This formula is approved by all—except Israel—in the form it appears in the UN resolutions. The United States and Russia also announced their support for these resolutions.

This formula necessitates dealing with the Palestinians as a people, and a people have land. They also have the right to use it and be independent over it. These are all interpretations of a variety of viewpoints, but they are a logical deduction proceeding from the basic concepts behind this formula, which is why Israel denies the people and the land.

West's 'Animosity' Toward Muslim Beliefs Viewed

NC1206061492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Muhammad Sharaf Commentary: " 'Id al-Adha and the Most Important Issues and Concerns of the Muslims at This Point in History"]

[Excerpts] Muslims, wherever they live, today celebrate the blessed 'Id al-Adha. On this occasion, some important issues need to be discussed and debated. Early in the week, on the 25th anniversary of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem, the issue of this sacred city, which is a major Islamic and international issue, was brought up on a large scale. The ceremony marking Jerusalem Day, which was held at Arab League headquarters in Cairo, gained noticeable world attention. The world media emphasized President Mubarak's appeal to the world community during the ceremony to help free Jerusalem from the captivity of occupation. The essence of this appeal is that Israel's continued occupation of the Arab territories in the West Bank and Gaza does not establish any right or generate any legitimacy, because it is based on a historically incorrect illusion. Thus, Israel's declaration of Jerusalem as its capital is unlawful and runs contrary to all international charters and principles. Mubarak said that the policy of monopolizing the consecration of a fait accompli on Jerusalem and changing its demography through settlements jeopardize the possibility of a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The city has a historic, legal, cultural, and spiritual nature as a living symbol of history and the heavenly religions and it embodies a common heritage for all humanity. The world media described the appeal as firm.

The issue of Jerusalem is an Arab, Islamic, and international issue. Resolving it, the Palestinian issue, and the Arab-Israeli conflict is a true test for the power and credibility of the world community in this changing world and following the end of the cold war. [passage omitted]

This is too brief an occasion to list all the concerns of the Islamic world at this important stage of human history; but a comprehensive issue that is widely debated today is whether the West is subjecting the Islamic world to injustice, persecution, and animosity because of its religious beliefs? For the sake of objectivity, we have to say that there are some people who currently promote this notion. There are certainly some world powers that harbor animosity toward the Arabs and the Muslims and instigate the enmity of the world's major powers toward them. The Muslims should not walk into this trap, however, and exhaust their energy on artificial differences instead of devoting their energy to development and progress and continuing their historic march, which largely contributed to building human civilization.

Senior U.S. officials denied there is any strategy based on antagonism toward Islam and the Muslims. At any rate, the first line of defense for Muslims is the tolerance of their creed and its noble call for truth, justice, equality, good, and peace for all mankind.

Libya

Anniversary of Evacuation of U.S. Bases Marked

Public Praises al-Qadhdhafi

LD1106111592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jun (JANA)—The grand, public celebrations started last night in the Great Jamahiriyah's

various cities to mark the 22d anniversary of the expulsion of the colonialist U.S. bases and forces from Arab Libyan soil. Tripoli witnessed massive celebrations last night, during which the evacuation torch at "Umm 'Atiqah" air base [former Wheelus air base] was lit amid resounding revolutionary cheers expressing pride and loftiness at this great historic victory that was achieved by the will of the great Fatih revolution. The torch procession began from "Umm 'Atiqah" air base and marched toward Algeria square, where the "victory" torch was lit in front of " 'Uqba Bin Nasi'" air base [the evacuation air base]. There, the Arab Libyan-U.S. negotiations were held, where the will of the Arab Libyan people confronted the U.S. bases and liberated the dear part of the Arab homeland.

Participating in the celebrations were groups of the scouts; the guides; [word indistinct]; the cubs; and the arms of Great al-Fatih and the armed people; youth of the training centers; musical groups; and the folkloric arts groups.

Marking this occasion, the public in Tripoli issued a statement that reads: The public in Tripoli embraced the great revolution and was united with its victorious leader from the first moment. We also witnessed the expulsion of the Americans, English, and Italians, due to the revolution and to the cleansing of the land from the West's stain. During our celebration outside Evacuation Hall—the hall that hosted Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's decisive historic speech to the negotiators and where the date was set for evacuating the five U.S. bases—this public stands today, with all loyalty to the evacuation's creator and to his free companions who believe his path.

Our joy for the evacuation festivities and the blessed sacrifice day comes at a time when we stand—after 22 years of revolutionary efforts and deeds—in close ranks (?behind) our leader and our revolution, defending our values, principles, and the homeland. We realize in full awareness the dimensions of the conspiracies being hatched by imperialism, which has forgotten neither the slap it received on 11 June [1970] nor its loss of an important strategic position in the old world. We will continue to stand here like the palm trees around us, with all pride and loftiness in the face of all storms. We will not betray our principles; we will not stoop to Western arrogance. We will fear only Almighty God.

The unjust measures imposed by the Security Council, resulting in the arbitrary resolution [words indistinct] are nothing but (?a desperate) attempt to make us stoop. But it will only make us more defiant and prompt us to think, find ways, and prepare for mobilization. Evacuation for us is the day of freedom, the day of rehabilitating the ancestors who sacrificed their lives for the homeland's soil, so that we may enjoy pride and freedom. Evacuation was a decisive blow to the Atlantic West and a victory for the revolutionary force's will in the Arab region, following a range of setbacks and defeats to which our Arab nation was subjected as a result of dispersion and fragmentation. It was also a pledge of honorable men, principles and values, and the homeland's martyrs who were killed by the raids of U.S. aircraft against Suq al-Jum'ah and al-Watya [in April 1986]. It is the pledge of the believers who stood fast and firm in their positions and who participated in smashing the United States' and rancorous West' dreams.

It is the pledge of the revolutionaries who are committed to the fact that our soil is dearer than soul and life, soil that cannot be stained by the boots of the U.S. Marines as long as our blood beats [as received] and as long as we live on earth. Here, heads are held high, proclaiming glory and writing freedom with blood while fingers are on the triggers.

The public sent a cable to the brother leader of the revolution, in which they saluted this great historic achievement that, due to the great al-Fatih revolution, strengthened the freedom of the Arab Libyan people on 11 June by expelling all U.S. forces and bases from Arab Libyan soil. It lauds the pioneering role the revolutionary brother leader assumed by forcing five of the largest U.S. military bases to leave permanently.

Egypt's Mubarak Sends Message

LD1106101292 Tripoli JANA in English 0821 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [Jun] 11, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the great al Fatih revolution Col. Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi received the following congratulatory message from the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Muhammed Husni Mubarak on the occasion of the 22nd. anniversary of the expulsion of the American Forces from the Libyan Arab territory:

His excellency brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, Tripoli, Libya, I have the pleasure, while the brotherly Libyan Arab people are celebrating the anniversary of the evacuation of the base Umm 'Atiqah to send your excellency the most sincere cordial congratulations with the best wishes for good health and happiness to you personally and for your brotherly people development, progress and prosperity. With the highest esteem and fraternal respect.

Daily Blames al-Qadhdhafi for Air Embargo

NC1006193392 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The Libyan newspaper AL-JAMAHIRIYAH today held Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi responsible for the air embargo imposed on Libya. The paper warned him that the Libyan people will not follow him if he pursues his current policy about Arabs and Muslims.

But Muhammd al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, said that what was published in the newspaper was one of al-Qadhdhafi's ploys.

For the first time since Colonel al-Qadhdhafi assumed the leadership of Libya, AL-JAMAHIRIYAH called for dealing with whoever can achieve Libya's interests, be they Chinese or American. Addressing Colonel al-Qadhdhafi without naming him, the paper said: You are chasing a mirage, but we will not chase it with you this time.

The Libyan opposition, however, says that al-Qadhdhafi himself thought up this article to break loose from the Arabs and Muslims in the name of the Libyan people.

[Begin al-Muqaryif recording] This is al-Qadhdhafi's own making and is one of his ploys and tricks. Through this he seeks to accomplish several objectives, one of the most important of which is to shift the battle between him and the Libyan people to another area. We know that the battle between al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan people revolves around the Libyan Constitution and what al-Qadhdhafi did with this Constitution. [end recording]

Dr. al-Muqaryif accused al-Qadhdhafi of hindering the Libyans' plans to perform the pilgrimage to God's inviolable house [Mecca].

[Begin al-Muqaryif recording] This is not the first time al- Qadhdhafi has attempted to hamper the Libyans' efforts to perform the pilgrimage. It is known that in many of his speeches he frankly has asked the Libyans not to perform the pilgrimage. He used various methods to block their pilgrimage. For example, he imposed especially high taxes on anyone wishing to perform the pilgrimage. Even more harmful, in one of his speeches—which we have on tape, for your information—al-Qadhdhafi literally says that al-Ka'bah [Islamic shrine in Mecca] is an idol. Despite the UN Security Council resolutions, Libyans who wish to perform the pilgrimage could do so if al-Qadhdhafi allowed it. They could go by land, sea or air. [end recording]

In any case, some aspects of Libyan politics have begun to change.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH Editorials View Issues

Arab Unity, Solidarity Termed 'Mirage'

LD1106143592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jun (JANA)—In a series of articles exposing the present-day Arab situation, AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, published by the revolutionary committees movement, carried in today's edition an article under the headline "The Lesson of the Siege," in which it stated: [words indistinct] (?We confronted) the enemies in the battlefield on our own, as equals. We faced up to their conspiracies and [words indistinct] intrigues that targeted our existence. We did this, with all our power and potential, for the sake of Arabism and Islam. We gave much over nearly a quarter of a century. We contributed effectively and in a major way to prolonging the life of the armed struggle [words indistinct] and the steadfastness of the Arab front, which we did so that the struggle against all the nation's enemies and the battles for liberating Palestine and rescuing its people could continue. We endured economic boycott and an end to exporting [word indistinct] to us, especially because we are a state with an industry of oil and its by-products. Libyan students were expelled from Western states—especially the United States—to keep them from gaining scientific and technological knowledge. In the face of this negative humiliation, we had no other way of reacting but to do what we learned from Arabism, namely: being negative toward the facts and crucial matters; being the last to initiate an action; being the last to leave and abandon the trenches; devoting ourselves to searching for our interest and concerning ourselves with them; developing the means for achieving our interests wherever they are; pursuing those interests from the north to the south pole; building our own strength within our borders; and dealing with the brother the same way we deal with the stranger according to clauses that achieve regional interests for the Libyans and preparing the means for their rise.

The newspaper also stated in its article entitled "The Lesson of the Siege" that this lesson was learned from the latest siege and was inspired by the disappointing Arab position and the Islamic League's humiliating, non-Islamic positions. The siege was based on falsifying international legitimacy, which is controlled by the strong and imposed on the weak. We have shown much patience and waited for a unified Arab position that would deter the mighty and bring them back to their senses. We resorted to our Arab brothers. They are the first to know and to recognize the reasons for this siege, and they know the real—yet false—motives behind it. Also, they are more worthy of standing by us [words indistinct].

As Libyans, we found ourselves disillusioned, plowing the sea, hoping that our reluctant silence over the deeds of our Arab brothers would bring on the day of Arab unity. We hoped that it would realize our unified pan-Arab hope and strengthen our hand, one with another, in times of ease as well as in hardship. We hoped it would enable us to face our unified destiny and unify our position as a solidly packed structure that faces all the disasters and crises that face any part of the Arab homeland.

All these values are in the realm of impossibility. To pander after them would be like running after a mirage that exists only in the imagination that does not see reality.

Libyans Urged To Defend Own Interests

LD1106143792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 11 Jun (JANA)—Under the title "Plowing That Has Not Yielded a Crop," the newspaper AL-JAMAHIRIYAH today published an article that

analyzes the situation Muslims find themselves in during these international changes and what is called the new international economic order. [passage omitted]

The paper states: Here we are, O God, at your service! [labbayka allahumma labbayka!—formula spoken by pilgrims in Mecca] This cry is the same and the place is the same. The difference is between the Muslims of yesterday and those of today and what a difference between the Muslims of today and those of yesterday!

During these lean times, today's Muslims accepted what is available. Today they stand in Arafat, near Mecca; they circle the Kaaba and go to and from al-Safa and Marwa, repeating: Here we are God, at your service. But everybody pretends to forget that today's pilgrimage has become politics and is no longer a pilgrimage. While looking north and south, they should remember their brothers who were prevented from performing the rites of pilgrimage for the first time in the history of Muslims. Their pilgrimage was made conditional on permission from Christians, and they cannot enter Mecca except through the New York gate. [passage omitted]

This worship is null and void, because jihad was imposed as a duty before. Muslims everywhere pretend to forget, and no one can deny this duty in light of the colonial domination to which the sacred places are being subjected nowadays by the West and the crusaders, who are rancorous against Islam.

What do worship and performing rites have to do with political resolutions? If there is no way of avoiding such resolutions, we Muslim crowds must look for an alternative to perform our rites or stick to Mecca, Medina, and the sacred places [words indistinct], which should remain just places of worship, having nothing to do with politics, political resolutions, or what they call international legality. Then we would not reproach Saudi Arabia as an independent state with sovereignty over its territory. [passage omitted]

We should have collected the money that was used to cover the pilgrimage this year to proclaim the jihad and to defend Muslims' places and sanctities. We should have done this so that brothers in Islam would not be deprived of visiting the sacred places and so that Muslims would not die every day, everywhere, en masse, while we watch and listen gloomily to shouts and cries for help and while our Islamic Conference remains immobile. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Libyan Arab people's position on Islamic and Muslim issues, the paper states: We Libyans [words indistinct] in Arafat, to declare rejection and to declare a turning to sacred jihad against the Christians who deprived us of pilgrimage. What tie now links us to Muslims and what objective do we have in common with them? The Islamic League, the religious link, has become a corrupt and invalid league, a league for talk alone. The Islamic Call Society should be turned into a jihad call society to make the word of God prevail, to purge the sacred places, and to rehabilitate Muslims everywhere. We must turn to our own interests only. What we have given to Muslims—who have given us nothing in our trial—is enough. [passage omitted]

We pray to God to accept the pilgrimage we intended to perform this year, from which we were prevented by the Americans and the Arabs. Concerning your plowing, O you Muslims, we do not believe it will yield any crop this year.

Arab, Islamic Support Questioned

LD1106141192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1155 GMT 11 Jun 92

["The Hidden and the Visible in the Behavior of the Brothers"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jun (JANA)—Among the most prominent articles in the daily AL-JAMAHIRIYAH published today, 11 June, [words indistinct] the West imposed coercive measures they were the first to pledge implementing the siege... We helped them... They humiliated us. The West prevented us from performing the rites of the hajj; they went to perform their own rites without asking about us.

What sort of nation and what sort of religion is this that prompts a brother to turn his back on his brother? What sort of a nation is this that its worldly interests make it forget its nationalist duties toward a brother who is being slaughtered; a second whose land is being occupied; a third facing unjust coercive measures; a fourth dying from hunger; and a fifth being burned by Zionist bombs? What sort of Arabs are these who stand as spectators before their own humiliation under the pretext of international legitimacy and the arrangements of the new world order? [words indistinct] (?What sort of Arab traits) do they show while a brother of theirs is being prevented, by order of the crusaders, from performing the hajj this year and from answering the call of his God to perform a religious ordinance that he must do as long as he is capable?

The daily AL-JAMAHIRIYAH concluded its article by stating: To face all of this and that and to face the hidden and the visible in the attitudes and behavior of today's Arabs, we must stop for a moment and think with reason and utmost seriousness and decide what achieves our objectives and protects our interests. We should head toward building ourselves up and realizing our aspirations in revival, progress, and developing our Libyan people's potential. We will no longer, after today, bear the burden of others. We have had enough of what has happened to us because of our Pan-Arab and Islamic attitudes. Arabism remains [word indistinct] the tongue. Islam is our religion, and we worship God [words indistinct].

National Salvation Front Leader Interviewed

PM1006135792 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Jun 92 p 14

[Interview with Muhammad Yusuf al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the Libyan National Salvation Front, by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in London; date not given]

[Text] Muhammad Yusuf al-Muqaryif, secretary general of the Libyan National Salvation Front, said in a wide-ranging interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT that the training camps belonging to the Irish Liberation Army are still operating in Libya to this day. Al-Muqaryif added that while (president) Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—during the talks to be held today in Switzerland between representatives of the two parties—will express to the British Government his willingness to surrender the secrets of the revolutionaries in Ireland to the British authorities, in the hope that the British Government will take his side against the Security Council resolutions, camps for training in terrorist operations continue to operate in Libya and provide the Irish elements with all means of training and experience in all fields.

Dr. al-Muqaryif ruled out the possibility of Al-Qadhdhafi succeeding in inactivating the Security Council resolutions through the series of concessions and temptations he is offering the Western states. He said that the international legitimacy's siege on the regime in Libya will not be lifted unless the Libyan president abandons his support for terrorism, and he, that is Al-Qadhdhafi, cannot embark on such a step because, leaders of terrorism who obtained his support for years will turn against him and take revenge if he thinks about abandoning them. The following is the text of the interview:

['Alam-al-Din] I noticed that you move around London without protection. Are you confident that President al-Qadhdhafi is unlikely to carry out reprisal operations against you to avoid further hostility against him in the Western circles. Or are you confident about British security measures?
[al-Muqaryif] I believe in God. I also believe that life and death are in the hands of Almighty God and that no power on earth can increase or decrease anyone's life.

But that does not mean that I ignore or forget the duties of caution and protection, since I know that Al-Qadhdhafi has my name at the top of the wanted list. And I have no doubt that he will not waste any opportunity available to him to hunt me down. And I know how to deal wish such a situation.

['Alam-al-Din] In a television interview you spoke about the issue of changing the Libyan regime by force. What force do you mean? Your opposition military force, the public's force, or the force of individual assassination?
[al-Muqaryif] The bottom line, in isolation from the misleading slogans, is that the present regime—the unjust regime that came to power by force and continues in power by force—is still in Libya.

And al-Qadhdhafi said on more than one occasion that he will not be moved from his position except by force. He is still in his position even after he obstructed the Constitution and abolished the House of Representatives and the legislative authority and deprived the Libyan people of the platforms of free opinion from which the masses express their views without fear or punishment. In the face of a regime based on such methods no reasonable person can imagine that it is possible to remove it without force. And I hope that my statement will not be understood to mean that we have ahead of us political opportunities for political reform and change in Libya and that we are ignoring these opportunities and resorting to the option of force alone to achieve the aims of the Libyan people's sons. This is because the existing reality proves that the Libyan people have no other other opportunity except force to achieve that change. Had there been an opportunity to choose based on democracy and freedom, the people would have embarked on achieving that change several years ago, and they would have been relieved of the catastrophe weighing heavily on their soul.

That is the bottom line. Concerning the details, I say that the sources of that force are plentiful and numerous. They include the force of the Libyan National Salvation Front [LNSF], whose capabilities, size, positions, and action plans I know. But I am not now in a position to talk about them and explain all their details. I can only say that I know many facts about the Front's fedayeen, whom the Front started to choose and train in 1984, the date of its establishment. This is in addition to the force of the Libyan military men who joined the Front since we were in Chad in 1987, as well as the trained resistance fighters present inside Libya.

From our knowledge of the reality about the Libyan regime, we believe that the fragility of its position and its political and military breakup caused it to be in its weakest state today, and it no longer has any influence or effectivness. As a regime it no longer can mobilize Libyan Army units effectively and forcefully to serve its objectives and schemes and defend its existence when it needs them.

From our knowledge of the fragility of the regime and the Army, we believe that our force is capable of toppling the regime once it is able to make a move under a plan that enables it to reach al-Qadhdhafi.

This is because nothing is left of the Army except four or five battalions whose main task is to provide the necessary protection for al-Qadhdhafi personally. And the subject of his personal security has become the principal issue preoccupying Al-Qadhdhafi out of his belief that his regime will continue to exist as long as he is alive, which stems from the fact that all strings are in his hands. And when we talk about the LNSF's force we know that the overwhelming majority of the Libyan

people oppose the regime and its head and that its supporters do not exceed 2,000 people, most of whom are from the sons of the tribe to which he belongs. And we are not surprised by the reality, which confirms that there are elements opposed to the regime inside the organs set up by Al-Qadhdhafi and even among elements of the Revolution Command Council itself. We also should not rule out that a group from inside these organs may make a move to finish it off.

There is another force in our mind. It comprises some Libyans who have had no link with the regime at all and who have suffered and continue to suffer from its practices. These will make a move at the right time to enforce a change.

In our view, it is all these forces that represent the factors for the required and anticipated change.

['Alam-al-Din] How long can President al-Qadhdhafi remain in power?
[al-Muqaryif] Unless favorable conditions and the right opportunity are available to the group seeking the change to make a move toward its aim, Al-Qadhdhafi can remain in power for a long period of time.

['Alam-al-Din] Despite all the difficult conditions he is experiencing today?
[al-Muqaryif] Undoubtedly, the UN Security Council resolutions, which stipulate imposing a kind of blockade or boycott on Libya, will have a huge effect on the regime's position.

Aware of the seriousness of these resolutions, al-Qadhdhafi is intensifying his moves aimed at dismantling the component parts of these resolutions through contacts by his envoys and key elements of his regime with international circles, including European circles. He is also working toward his goal by using the tempting offers he is making to many states and the huge concessions by which he is trying to rid himself of the responsibility for his positions that led to his isolation.

['Alam-al-Din] Do his offers and concessions fall on attentive ears in the Western states?
[al-Muqaryif] Al-Qadhdhafi is today paying the price for his policy, whose effects and results swelled his dossier—which has grown with the years of his rule, with all the mistakes, ill intentions, and mischief experienced during these years. Through these offers, al-Qadhdhafi could be seeking to maneuver and play for time to get out of his predicament. But while he is maneuvering he is also planning to take revenge and return to his previous era to run the affairs of government in the strange way he is known for.

Since he assumed power, al-Qadhdhafi's practices and policy—with their results—have been in the interests of the states that he claims to be hostile to and to be launching his war against. Had he spent Libya's income of over $230 billion on Libya's and its people's good, Libya would been at the forefront of the developed states in all spheres. And his relations with neighboring states would have been excellent. For that he would have needed to spend one-tenth of the sums he spent on terrorism, sabotage, and stockpiling arms.

Al-Qadhdhafi spent 40-50 percent of Libya's income on purchasing arms, sabotaging security, and undermining the pillars of Arab solidarity on the pretext of supporting the Palestinian cause.

['Alam-al-Din] Have you taken precautions to tackle the effects of a deal that may occur between President al-Qadhdhafi and the Western states in light of the offers he makes to the West and the Libyan-British dialogue that started in Switzerland today, Tuesday?
[al-Muqaryif] I believe that the margin of free movement granted to us in Europe and the United States is not at all linked to the policies and positions of these states, which is because there are respected and fixed traditions in these states. And they regard us as one of the persecuted people and allow us to exercise our role without suppression or maltreatment and without bargaining or reducing—in the interests of a ruler like Al-Qadhdhafi or those like him—the freedom of those seeking to express their views in complete freedom.

And I am certain that the information that al-Qadhdhafi will supply to the British Government about the IRA will be examined, investigated, and scrutinized by the British authorities to judge how true and serious it is.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you have any information about the locations of these camps in Libya?
[al-Muqaryif] We have such information.

['Alam-al-Din] Do the camps include large numbers of people being trained?
[al-Muqaryif] The number of the Irish elements is limited.

['Alam-al-Din] And does President al-Qadhdhafi still send arms to the Irish revolutionaries?
[al-Muqaryif] They do not need more of them after the huge quantities that he sent to them in the past.

['Alam-al-Din] At your recent conference in the United States you presented a "cultural plan" paper. What is that plan?
[al-Muqaryif] When we announced the Front's establishment on 7 October 1981, we spoke about two aims for the Front: first, toppling the Al-Qadhdhafi regime on the grounds that that is the first starting point for rebuilding Libya; second, establishing a constitutional, democratic alternative for the state.

We only dealt with that question in general terms in our statements. When we were in Chad with our military plan we felt that the question of change was very close and that it was our duty to begin to discuss the detailed foundations with the Libyan people and the international community to answer any question or query about Libya's future.

In 1988 we formed committees specialized in the various constitutional, political, economic, and social fields. They were entrusted with preparing the required studies.

The committees completed the general plan for our future views, and it was presented in a working paper to the national council at its recent session. All items were discussed and endorsed at the end of the session. Today we are in the process of printing and circulating the text of the plan and acquainting everyone inside and outside the Front with it.

And if we go beyond the rules of the transitional stage in which a transitional authority will be set up, we will find that the plan stipulates principles for a constitutional regime and the system of democratic institutions that will govern Libya, protected from an individual's rule or domination. This is in addition to consolidating the people's power to enable them to rule themselves by themselves under a legislative authority, judicial authority, political pluralism, and respect for human rights and dignity, in addition to the other internationally agreed constitutional principles that were applied in Libya before al-Qadhdhafi came to power in 1969.

['Alam-al-Din] How do you view the information that there are disagreements between President al-Qadhdhafi and some Revolution Command Council members?

[al-Muqaryif] He prepares and implements roles, because the council members who have been with him until now know they cannot clash with him, despite their complaint about his dominating and controlling everything. And he attributes to them some of the attitudes opposed to his ideas with the goal of achieving his aims and misleading those who are outside Libya. But his methods are now exposed and fool no one, since everyone knows who is the author, the director, the producer, and the actor.

International Conference on Green Movement Begins

LD1206100592 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, al-Sayf [June] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The international conference of the Greens and peace movements is to start in the city of Surt today under the slogan Green Dialogue For an Alternative World Order.

The participants in the conference, which lasts until the 14th, will discuss and study four main topics including peace and the new world order, the environment crisis, democracy and people's power and the new international economic order.

Kuwait

Reply To Iraqi Message To UN on Demarcation

LD1106172192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1336 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 11 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwait today refuted the allegations of the Iraqi regime about the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders. Kuwait said that these allegations "are a continuation of that regime's aggressiveness in defying the international legitimacy; its commitment to the aggressive intentions; and its abrogation and evading all the treaties and pledges contracted by Iraq."

In a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general, Butrus-Ghali, in reply to a message addressed by the Iraqi regime's foreign minister to Ghali on 21 May 1992, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim, said that the Iraqi message could be summarized as a "disregard of the disaster" of the Iraqi criminal occupation of Kuwait "with all its results; pains; and the tragedies and harm it caused to Kuwait; Iraq; the Arab nation, and the whole world."

Shaykh Salim added that the Iraqi message "closes its eyes and closes its ears to the proven facts on which the world countries and organizations were unanimous when Iraq tried to violate them through invasion; jungle law, and imposing its views by the force of weapons."

The memorandum reads:

Your Excellency, the esteemed Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary general, New York.

Greetings. Kuwait became acquainted with the letter dated 21 May 1992, addressed to you by Iraq's foreign minister, on the resolutions of the committee on the demarcation of the borders between Kuwait and Iraq, which was decreed by the (UN) Security Council.

The great majority of the states of the world were surprised by this letter and its content; Kuwait, however, was not surprised by its content, for it is a continuation of this regime's line of challenging international legitimacy, insisting on aggressive intentions, declaring its rejection and renunciation of all the agreements and covenants Iraq has signed.

This letter can be summed up in a single expression: Ignoring the catastrophe with all its results and pains, and the tragedies and damage that it caused Kuwait, Iraq, the Arab nation and the whole world.

And it is a return after the crime of the invasion, the war adventure and the subsequent crushing defeat, to square one.

It is a letter which turns a blind eye and deaf ear to the firm facts around which the states of the world and institutions had rallied, which Iraq tried to sweep aside by invasion, violence, the law of the jungle, and the imposition of a fait accompli by means of arms. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti borders with Iraq are specific and well defined. The problem was the Iraqi procrastination in demarcating them and placing signposts. This procrastination was accompanied by blackmail, aggression and evading pledges.

Iraq has turned its back to all these treaties and proven facts. In a treacherous invasion, Iraq stormed its peaceful neighbor, Kuwait. It used excuses and justifications, which were ridiculed by the world, and insisted on illusions, on defying the international community and its appeals, which demanded that Iraq withdraw and adhere to international legitimacy. The result was a crushing defeat; a waste of lives and property; and an Iraqi declaration of complete acceptance of the UN Security Council resolutions, which returned the matters to their proper places and committed Iraq to what it voluntarily signed 4 October 1963 on recognizing Kuwait; its independence and borders, which were specified in the document filed at the United Nations under Number 7063. Iraq submitted its acceptance of all the UN Security Council resolutions and the Iraqi National Assembly's ratification of these resolution. The world thought that that was the end of a tragedy and the beginning of a new phase of peace and cooperation in the region.

This memorandum of the Iraqi foreign minister, while it is dressed in the robes of objection to the resolutions of the border demarcation committee, its articles and contents are, yet again, a new rejection of the international legitimacy and its resolutions; an abrogation of all previous agreements; a new formulation of the claims by which it justified the invasion, and in which it repeats its implicit threats that the resolutions of the border demarcation committee are a time bomb which will soon explode.

In spite of the fact that the Iraqi memorandum is nothing more than a repetition of allegations, which never stopped, and which deny facts that are as clear as daylight, we will in the following discuss objectively and neutrally some of the aspects discussed in the Iraqi foreign minister's memorandum. This is in accordance with a continuous call, which Kuwait has never abandoned, to resort to reason and to the truth; to learn from the lessons of the disaster; to turn a new leaf of behavior which would restore to the world its peace and security and to the region its unity of direction; and to abandon the calls for hegemony and aggression in a world which will not be saved except by love, cooperation, and joint action under mutual respect and within relations governed by legitimacy and principles.

First: The memorandum begins by saying that the setting up by the Security Council of the border demarcation committee and the council's consideration that the agreement signed by Iraq and Kuwait on 4 October 1963 forms the basis from which the committee proceeds in

the demarcation process is an imposition of a specific situation by the Security Council with regard to the border, and that the border problems between states should be left to an agreement between the states. In this it ignores and disregards a long history of continous Kuwaiti attempts and endeavors by every means to convince Iraq to delineate the border—the attempts which used to meet with delays, blackmail and repeated attacks on the border even up to the day before the treacherous Iraqi aggression.

Kuwait proposed that through a neutral committee the Arab League should look into what Iraq was raising in order to end this dispute. Iraq's reply was to launch the invasion the following day. Did Iraq forget that by its treacherous aggression and violation of international legitimacy it had taken the issue out of the framework which it is now demanding and placed it in the international framework which resisted to compel it to comply with this legitimacy, and that by its behavior Iraq had destroyed every means that could be acceptable by the world for solving any border dispute. Thus it became inevitable that the problem should be solved through UN intervention and supervision. This objection was raised by Iraq when Security Council Resolution 687 was adopted. Iraq then said that the border issues between states and border demarcation were not within the activities of the Security Council. But in the light of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the effect of this on the security and stability of the region, which is the responsibility of the Security Council in accordance with its authority in observing and taking out hotbeds of tension in the world, and the council's necessary duties to prevent such events taking place, decisive intervention was required for the demarcation of the border to end the problem, and therefore Article 4 of Security Council Resolution 687 said that the Council guarantees the international border between Kuwait and Iraq.

Iraq accepted the resolution and ratified it through its legislative and executive authorities, and that ratification was published as an official document of the United Nations, and therefore the rejection of the bases on which the committee depended in the demarcation of the border is a retreat by Iraq from unconditionally accepting it.

It is noteworthy that Resolution 687, according to which the border demarcation committee was set up, has priority over all other resolutions related to the subject matter, as clause one of the resolution points out that the council reaffirms all its previous resolutions except those which are openly being changed below [Resolution 687] in realization of the aims of this resolution.

Second: In an attempt by Iraq to justify its aggression and its rejection of an international intervention for border demarcation, the memorandum outlines conflicting facts on imaginary attempts by the Iraqi side to convince Kuwait on border demarcation that Iraq had a "sincere" desire to solve the issue with Kuwait, but Kuwait "did not respond." [passage omitted].

Member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and minister of industry, Taha al-Jazuli, had informed Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti foreign minister at the time, during a meeting in Baghdad, to discuss the border problem, that the two Kuwaiti islands of Warbah and Bubyan had a special importance as far as Iraq was concerned because it was a Gulf state; and that Kuwait is called upon to relinquish them.

During that visit, the Kuwaiti delegation, under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, met Saddam Husayn, who then occupied the post of vice president of the republic, who reiterated the previously mentioned demands.

The Kuwaiti response was decisive: Relinquishing Kuwaiti territories was totally out of the question, and that this cannot be done by any Kuwaiti citizen .

These were the types of "pan-Arab and national" initiatives carried out by Iraq to persuade Kuwait on border demarcation; initiatives that targeted the homeland, its sovereignty, liberty, and management of its wealth.

Third: In this memorandum the Iraqi regime repeated its previous attempts to obstruct by all means the demarcation of the borders. Thus it rejected the principle of the intervention of the UN Security Council in the demarcation operation and resorted to casting doubt in the committee and the selection of its members, and demanded that it should have a say in the selection of its members. [passage omitted]

Fourth: The memorandum claimed that the Security Council resolution pertaining to the formation of the borders demarcation committee is an unprecedented UN resolution. This is an unfounded claim and contrary to what is known, as the Leaguee of Nations had set up similar committees for the delineation under its supervision to solve border disputes in some regions of the world. [passage omitted]

Fifth: In the field of feeble excuses, the memorandum objected to the contents of the UN secretary general's draft in which he pointed out that the committee could use the appropriate technology for border demarcation. The memorandum considered that to be a vague and unspecific reference, and that there should be an explanation of the technology used in border demarcation.

This technical work has its well known techniques which are known to all the specialists of that field, and the interference of the secretary general in specifying them would have been surprising. [passage omitted]

Sixth: The memorandum blames the Kuwaiti representative for addressing suggestive questions to the two independent experts, questions which suggested specific answers. We do not know what stopped the Iraqi representative from addressing questions as he was a member of the committee and had full rights to ask for explanations and to express opinions.

Seventh: The Iraqi regime's memorandum rejected what the committee relied on in its interpretation of the path of the borders south of Safwan. In its rejection the memorandum relies on the fact that the committee adopted a survey—which is "the essence of the committee's work"—and also on the fact that the committee relied on documents and correspondence between Britain and Iraq and also on Iraqi maps. We do not know why the border demarcation committee should be blamed for that. [passage omitted].

Eighth: The memorandum points out that Kuwait had moved border posts, border forces, and prospective locations more than 70 kms. [passage omitted] The real aim of the Iraqi memorandum, as it clearly appears, is to renounce the border line mentioned in the agreements which Iraq had signed, and to move to other testimonies and evidence logically unacceptable.

Ninth: The memorandum objects to two matters on which the work of the demarcation committee was based. First, the committee's dependence on survey evidence. [passage omitted] However it is clear that Iraq's memorandum wants to move the committee away from its demarcation task so that it will enter into a maze of defining the border. [passage omitted]

The second matter to which the Iraqi memorandum objects is that the committee has adopted the British map among the suitable material on which the demarcation work is based. The memorandum proceeds in this from its rejection of any definition of the border by Britain, despite the fact that Iraq had officially approved that through the signatures of its prime ministers of the agreements of 1932 and 1963. Nevertheless, the British map was not considered as the basis of the work of the committee, but a suitable material among others which inevitably should be backed by other materials. [passage omitted] [passage indistinct]

Twelve: The Iraqi memorandum considered the decision on Kuwait's joining the Arab League as null and void because of the absence of the Iraqi foreign minister from the meeting, and claimed that the decision to admit a new member to the Arab League must enjoy the unanimous support of the members. Thus Iraq accepts that Kuwait became a member of the Arab League, albeit that it attributes this to a mistake by its foreign minister. How can it be that it accepts this frankly, and then consider the Arab League's decision null and void? And yet Iraq's subsequent behavior toward Kuwait confirms that for about three decades Iraq had dealt with Kuwait as an independent state on the one hand, and as a member of the Arab League on the other. This behavior was represented in the manifestations of diplomatic, political, economic, social and cultural dealings.

Thirteen: The Iraqi memorandum claimed that "The Kuwaiti authorities have admitted their encroachment upon the Iraqi oil fields", through His Highness Shaykh S'ad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, during the meeting with the vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council in Jeddah on 30 July 1990. This claim was not made during the talks which took place in that meeting, and not at other meetings. Kuwait held on to its opinion as expressed in the two official memoranda which were submitted by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister to the Arab League secretary general on 18 and 21 July 1990, in reply to the two Iraqi memoranda dated 15 and 21 July 1991.

Kuwait stressed, while the Iraqi delegation was listening in the Jeddah meeting, that it was ready to set up neutral committees to discuss all the issues raised by the two sides, including that of the oil fields. The Iraqi side, however, did not respond to this, and its premeditated response was its surprise and traitorous attack against Kuwait just hours after the ending of the aforementioned meeting.

Fourteen: In dealing with the resolutions of the demarcation commission, the Iraqi memorandum resorts to its familiar methods based on disassociation from any agreement or commitment it signed so that it could impose its visions on matters and its ambitions as facts that should be accepted and adhered to by everybody. Therefore, it explained the demarcation committee resolutions as it explained anything that did not meet its desires, as a colonialist act and an international plot. For example, it bases its demand for Kuwaiti land and islands in the Gulf not on the basis of the agreements signed by it nor on the historically documented borders, but on its reputation as a maritime state, and that it should have an outlet to the Gulf. It chooses [unfinished sentence as received]

Fifteen: Iraq claims that it is not committed to the minutes signed in 1963 because the legislative power in Iraq did not endorse them.

To reply to this claim, we state the following:

1. The issue of presenting a certain agreement for endorsement or otherwise depends on the intention of the sides in question; which can be understood from the circumstances, the context and subject of the issue. [passage omitted]

Sixteen: The Iraqi memorandum wants to drag the United Nations and the UN Security Council into a maze of allegations about the historical existence of Kuwait. These allegations have been already answered and discussed by the trusted scientific text books. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Border Disputes

JN1206081092 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 13-19 Jun 92 p 14

[Interview with Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani by Shakir al-Jawhari in Sanaa—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Jawhari] Have you resolved the border disagreement with the Sultanate of Oman and, if so, on what basis? Have you bypassed the 1965 agreement or have you developed it further? What groundwork was adopted upon which to attain a solution?

[Al-Iryani] The groundwork used in the Omani-Yemeni agreement consisted of negotiations on a new borderline that is based neither on the fait accompli nor on the 1965 agreement. This agreement had not acquired full legality, although it did acquire some sort of legitimacy when the British Government gave the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen a memorandum in 1968 containing a detailed description of the borderline, as well as other borders with the Sultanate of Oman.

The agreement concluded between the British authorities and the Sultanate of Oman in 1965 was somewhat legitimate. When they initiated negotiations with the Sultanate prior to unity, however, the brothers in the southern part insisted on viewing this agreement as illegal because it was concluded in 1965 without the knowledge of the Sultan of al-Maharah [region between Hadramawt and Dhofar]. Therefore, it was not completely legal given that it was a purely British-Omani agreement. That is why we notice that British maps always use the words—administrative borders—to explain the borders decided upon by this agreement.

[Al-Jawhari] From a legal viewpoint, what does administrative borders mean?

[Al-Iryani] What is important is that these borders have been canceled by the agreement we have reached with the Sultanate of Oman. A new agreement not based on the fait accompli has replaced them. Oman now lies on the perimeters of these administrative borders which Britain confirmed in 1965. The new agreement, however, goes beyond these borders and has moved them in a direct line toward the east.

[Al-Jawhari] To what distance?

[Al-Iryani] The distance this line has been moved is not the same along all points; however, it restores to Yemen lands which total some 4,600 square km.

[Al-Jawhari] This area is approximately half the area of Lebanon.

[Al-Iryani] Yes, and the Omanis will have a 24 square km small triangle facing the Habarut valley.

[Al-Jawhari] Of what strategic importance is this triangle?

[Al-Iryani] It is of historical importance and goes back to old issues. It has no strategic importance.

[Al-Jawhari] What is this historical importance?

[Al-Iryani] It concerns the relationships among the tribes and putting an end to frictions and blood feuds in the area. Most of the tribes now inhabiting this triangle are Omani tribes. Of course, their origin is from al-Maharah, but they all hold Omani citizenship and have done so for many years.

In my opinion, the new agreement has two characteristics. Under it, two problems have been overcome. However, many people are not pleased by this.

The first is the problem of the fait accompli. We have put an end to this policy in the demarcation of borders.

The second is that of historical claims. Neither they nor we have raised such a claim.

[Al-Jawhari] The endorsement of such an agreement by the Omanis despite the present chill in relations between Yemen and the Gulf states means that Oman wants to be flexible and to reach agreement. Does this signal close Yemeni-Omani cooperation in the future?

[Al-Iryani] It certainly does.

[Al-Jawhari] What impact will this have on the political equation in the region?

[Al-Iryani] Cooperation between any two neighboring states should not necessarily reflect negatively on any political equation. Such cooperation always reflects positively, and any Yemeni-Omani cooperation will have positive results.

[Al-Jawhari] What are the prospects, as you see them, for future cooperation with Oman?

[Al-Iryani] It is a political and an economic cooperation. Moreover, there are close family links in the Dhofar region.

[Al-Jawhari] Will this exceed coordination and reach a kind of alliance?

[Al-Iryani] No, this idea is not being considered either by Yemen or Oman. What is important is the strong and brotherly relations, the economic and cultural exchange, and the freedom of movement between the two countries in an organized manner. All this should result from the agreement, as well as promoting significant interests for neighboring regions; namely, al-Maharah and Dhofar. In light of this, Yemeni-Omani interests will emerge, roads will be opened to link the two countries, and joint projects will be implemented. I also can emphasize that joint oil and gas fields will appear in this region.

The agreement will open limitless prospects for cooperation. However, we cannot term it an alliance that will reflect negatively on the region's politics.

[Al-Jawhari] Is it, then, a movement toward integration rather than alliance?

[Al-Iryani] That is true.

[Al-Jawhari] Is there any information about the existence of oil and gas in the region that is restored under the recent agreement with Oman?

[Al-Iryani] Of course there is.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the exact quantity of that oil and gas?

[Al-Iryani] There are no figures, but I expect oil and gas discoveries in part of the territory from which Oman is going to withdraw to be announced before the end of this year. Oil and gas deposits extend into Omani territory. This is an expectation.

[Al-Jawhari] Can we say that, just as you have turned the oil discoveries in an area between the former two Yemens into a blessing rather than hostility through the establishment of unity, you are going to turn the oil discoveries in this border area with Oman into a blessing rather than conflict and hostility?

[Al-Iryani] Yes, through a total agreement.

[Al-Jawhari] Under the agreement, who will do the border demarcation? Is it going to be done by a foreign company or by technical officers from the two countries?

[Al-Iryani] Technical officers dispatched by the two governments will carry out the major duties. A foreign company then will complete the specifics.

[Al-Jawhari] Allow me to move on to the second border dispute, that with Saudi Arabia. Whoever looks at a map discovers that the matter is not that of a border dispute; rather, it is a dispute over a very large geographical expanse. The al-Rub' al-Khali that you are demanding causes the border of Yemen to extend to the heart of Saudi Arabia as it is currently located. Have you reached any resolution with the Saudi brothers? We note here that this is the first time that senior Yemeni officials, including the president himself, have spoken frankly and openly about border disputes with Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Iryani] We have nothing new to report. We have expressed our willingness to negotiate, but we have not received an answer yet.

[Al-Jawhari] According to my information, Saudi Arabia is not willing to negotiate with you on the basis of the 1934 agreement. They now suggest negotiating to set the eastern border—something which greatly exceeds the 1934 agreement.

[Al-Iryani] My information says the opposite.

[Al-Jawhari] I hope that you will correct your information.

[Al-Iryani] My information and yours are not identical. But the question is not how to negotiate or over what. What is important is that we should sit at the negotiation table without any preconditions. Everything should be discussed and agreed upon in accordance with international law. Whether Sanaa is proven to be theirs or Riyadh ours is not the point at issue for people who have the desire to negotiate. One should negotiate with an open heart without any preconditions. This is the important thing.

[Al-Jawhari] How do you view the present prospects for relations with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Iryani] We cannot say that they are active and vital. Let us say that they now are stalemated. Breaking this stalemate depends on them.

[Al-Jawhari] Is the stalemate the result of your stand toward the Gulf crisis or is it the result of your joining the Arab Cooperation Council, which was seen by Saudi Arabia as an attempt to besiege it?

[Al-Iryani] Possibly all of these reasons, in addition to the border dispute and the establishment of Yemeni unity on a democratic basis.

[Al-Jawhari] So there are no prospects for a solution with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Iryani] I have not said this. As far as we are concerned, all prospects are open.

[Al-Jawhari] But I am talking about prospects for a final solution, not about Yemen's position.

[Al-Iryani] Of course, we cannot lose hope.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you intend to inform Saudi Arabia of your desire not to renew the 1934 agreement, which expires this year?

[Al-Iryani] Neither side has the right to say that they do not want to renew the agreement. The legal text is clear; there is no text that stipulates this. Talking about the right of renewal or otherwise is an incorrect interpretation of the agreement. The agreement does not say that any party has the right to renew or not to renew it. The agreement says that at the end of 20 years, or six months prior to that time, either party has the right to inform the other of its desire to review any of the agreement's clauses. If one party does not inform the other of this, then the agreement will still be valid and remains so even six months after one party has expressed its desire to review the agreement. This means that this could take place 100 years from now; it is not linked to 20 years as is commonly thought.

This is the text of the agreement. One is committed to the text.

[Al-Jawhari] I understand from this that you do not intend to inform them of your desire to review the agreement.

[Al-Iryani] No decision has been made in this regard. Besides, such a decision is unnecessary because you can convey your desire any time you want.

[Al-Jawhari] Then why the talk about this agreement openly and for the first time?

[Al-Iryani] We are not talking about this.

[Al-Jawhari] The president talked about it during his recent interview with British Television.

[Al-Iryani] That was in response to a question directed to him. According to its provisions, this agreement is not an issue.

[Al-Jawhari] Why did you praise the U.S. stance toward your border dispute with Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Iryani] Because it is based on law and legitimacy.

[Al-Jawhari] Does this mean that they support the legal rights of Yemen?

[Al-Iryani] Of both sides.

[Al-Jawhari] I understand that they sent a letter in this regard to you and to the Saudis. What are the contents of this letter?

[Al-Iryani] The main points contained in the U.S. letter pertain to the need to solve the dispute by peaceful means, including negotiations, mediation, arbitration, or in a court of law.

[Al-Jawhari] Did the Americans express their willingness to mediate?

[Al-Iryani] They did not offer that and we did not request them to do so.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you have any idea what the Saudi reaction was to the U.S. memorandum? Is it correct to call it a memorandum?

[Al-Iryani] In diplomatic language, it is called a non-paper [preceding word printed in English]. But this does not change the fact that the U.S. stance, about which we were informed, is an official stance. In any case, we were not informed of the Saudi reaction to that memoradnum. However, we did confirm to the U.S. side our total agreement with every sentence contained in their memorandum.

[Al-Jawhari] It is clear that Washington now views the situation from the angle that it has interests in Yemen as well as in Saudi Arabia. This is reflected in the U.S. stance, which seeks to avoid tension in Yemeni-Saudi relations. What are the U.S. interests in Yemen in your view?

[Al-Iryani] The fact is that, to begin with, Yemen is a country located in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula. It is clear from recent events that this part of the world does not tolerate acts that will lead to upsetting balances, to harming interests, or to creating instability in the region. The U.S. interest in Yemen is logical, strategic, and natural.

Add to this the present and future U.S. oil interests in Yemen. This attention is a natural result of their attention to this part of the world. Consider the fact that they mobilized 500,000 soldiers in less than three months for this region in order to achieve their objectives in it.

[Al-Jawhari] It turned out that the military buildup exceeded 700,000 soldiers.

[Al-Iryani] I mean U.S. soldiers. This attention is natural. But it is a positive, not a negative, attention. They insist that problems should be settled by peaceful means, and that there should be no threats or intimidation.

[Al-Jawhari] As I see things, there is a constant element and a variable element with regard to U.S.-Yemeni relations. The constant element is Yemen's strategic position at the Bab el Mandeb Strait and the southern entrance to the Red Sea. I mean the issue of Red Sea security, since it complements that of Arabian Gulf security, especially given that the two seas represent one navigational line for Gulf oil exports to the Suez Canal and from there to Europe and America. As for the variable element, it has two aspects:

1. Yemeni unity, which coincided with the collapse of the socialist camp.

2. The fact that the southern part of Yemen has abandoned its ideological hardline policy and the absence of an international pole to polarize it as exisited in the past.

How can these two variables contribute to the development of U.S.-Yemeni relations? What is the role, specifically, that the United States hopes Yemen now will play with regard to Red Sea security and the African Horn?

[Al-Iryani] We did not discuss this topic, but we agreed that this region should enjoy peace and remain free of conflicts. Proceeding from this premise, Yemen is doing its utmost to achieve stability in the African Horn. However, no detailed discussion on measures to achieve this security was undertaken.

In fact, given that there are no elements of threat or challenge to the big powers in the region, I do not think that this issue needs an agreement with the United States. It is certain that no state in this region is seeking to create instability, to obstruct international navigation, or to harm the security and safety of any economic infrastructure in which other states have interests.

[Al-Jawhari] Are the elements I have mentioned in my previous question related to U.S. support for Yemeni unity?

[Al-Iryani] Certainly the absence of the Soviet Union has facilitated U.S. support for Yemeni unity, because the United States was not afraid that the new state would be polarized by a hostile party.

U.S. Aid To Technological Institutions Denied

JN1206093792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jun (INA)—The AL-THAWRAH newspaper has denied reports that Iraq received financial and technical aid from the United States to build its technological institutions.

The newspaper, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, asserts in an article today that everything said about this aid is groundless.

The paper adds that reports about this issue are false, as well as being absurd allegations and sheer fabrication. If such reportage has any aim, the paper continues, then it is to settle scores between Bush and his rivals within the context of the ongoing U.S. presidential election fever. It is part of the trading of accusations and distributing gains between candidates.

Making such allegations at this time in particular, AL-THAWRAH adds, is an additional chapter to the chapters of distortion and the spreading of lies, falsehoods, and fabricated stories against Iraq to undermine its regional and international standing.

The paper refutes the issue from an intellectual and political perspective with regard to Iraq and the Western camp and their interests, saying: Scientific aid given by the United States to any state is based originally on imperialist interests, links of colonialist hegemony, the strengthening of agents and protecting their regimes, and taking care of multinational companies. Iraq's struggling nature, its national and pan-Arab approach, and its regional and international policies are absolutely antithetical to U.S. objectives.

The paper also sheds light on another strategic contradiction between Iraq and the United States that totally prevents Washington from extending aid to Baghdad in its efforts to achieve scientific progress. Claiming U.S. scientific aid to Iraq simply does not stand to reason, given that Iraq is an Arab country which considers the Palestine question to be a central pivot in pan-Arab struggle.

The paper focuses in this regard on the primary motivations of U.S. institutions and decisionmakers. The entity that runs U.S. policy is, in reality, the Zionist lobby, whose fingers reach into most U.S. decisionmaking institutions like the White House, the State Department, the Pentagon, Congress, and the National Security Council.

The paper also tackles the issue from its economic angle, saying that the U.S. Administration calculates [word indistinct] a single dollar regarding the profits and returns of any aid. Therefore, is it logical that Washington would destroy and burn Iraqi scientific institutions it allegedly helped to build?

AL-THAWRAH concludes its rebuttal of these allegations by shedding light on the miraculous achievements made by the Iraqis in rebuilding scientific and technological institutions throughout the country after their destruction by the Americans and their allies in early 1990. The paper says that progress in Iraq was not the result of U.S. aid. Evidence of this fact is the reconstruction process and the cultural miracle of rebuilding the country within months at a time when international experts were unanimous in their opinion that Iraq would need eight years to reconstruct half of what had been destroyed and to allocate $5 billion, provided the blockade is lifted.

Mosad, CIA 'Ordered Fahd' To Attack Pilgrims

JN1206100592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jun (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has accused the U.S. and Israeli intelligence services of planning the attacks which Iraqi pilgrims and others have faced in the holy territories.

In an analysis today, the paper says the Mosad and the CIA have ordered Fahd and his associates to repeat the attacks which took place against the pilgrims in the al-Mu'aysim tunnel two years ago.

AL-QADISIYAH explains that these plans are part of a chapter in the comprehensive, expanded, and concentrated plan to harm Islam and its spirit, teachings, and symbols. The paper draws attention to how the Zionist and Western media have employed the moral and financial scandals of King Fahd and his family and their suspicious connections to harm Islam, given that the holiest Muslim shrines are located in the land ruled by this family.

AL-QADISIYAH rules out any other motive that might cross anyone's mind for these attacks. The paper says that the fabrication of any undesirable incident by Fahd and his gang against the pilgrims cannot be explained by any other reason. Fahd and his family have linked their mentality to the wheel of Zionism and imperialism and have become the executors of their designs against Arabism and Islam.

The paper reviews the history of Jewish schemes against the Muslims from the dawn of the Islamic message until the establishment of a Zionist state. It refers to what the pilgrims are facing this season and asserts: We do not exaggerate when we say that the Jewish rabbis, such as Rabbi Ben Redmar [name as received], who came to Saudi Arabia with the foreign troops in 1990 at the head of 9,000 Jews are the ones who drew up the scenarios of the attacks that seek to divide the unity of the Islamic ranks during the dearest occasion to the hearts, consciences, and spirits of Muslims.

AL-QADISIYAH focuses on the behavior of Fahd and his family and its distance from the spirit of Islam and its teachings. The paper says: His stand against the Libyan

pilgrims—banning them from performing their pilgrimage in response to the U.S. sanctions—is a serious threat to one of the pillars of Islam.

The paper supports the call that has emanated from a number of Islamic countries to prevent King Fahd and his family from running the affairs of the Islamic shrines and controlling the performance of the Muslim rites.

Ministry Holds Saudis 'Responsible' for Pilgrims

JN1106104892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jun (INA)—The Iraqi Awqaf Ministry has warned the Saudi authorities not to carry out any treacherous action against the Iraqi pilgrims who are performing this year's pilgrimage.

In a statement to INA, a responsible source at the ministry says that the Saudi authorities will be held responsible for protecting the souls of the Iraqi pilgrims. The Saudi authorities also will be held responsible for exposing these pilgrims to any vile and treacherous action by repeating the 1990 crime of the al-Mu'aysim tunnel, which claimed the lives of thousands of pilgrims, including 27 Iraqis whose cases the ministry is still following up.

The source warned the heads of the companies transporting the Iraqi pilgrims not to go through tunnels in Muna and Mecca in anticipation of a treacherous crime by the authorities of the traitor of the two holy mosques similar to what they perpetrated with premeditation in 1990.

Further Reportage: Opposition Groups, Conference

Islamic Leader on Vienna Conference

PM1106110792 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 9 Jun 92 p 5

[Interview with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, by Sulayman Nimr in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Nimr] There have been reports of an intention to hold a national conference of the Iraqi opposition in Vienna. Will that conference be held, and what is your position?

[Al-Hakim] I received the news about convening that conference when I was in the holy places. I was not acquainted with the details of the matter. The conference idea has been around for some time. There are groups in London and elsewhere working to implement that idea. We believe that the conference's success depends on several basic issues which must be settled. The first issue concerns the parties of the Iraqi opposition. They must be unanimous over convening and participating in the conference. So far I do not know whether that unanimity has been achieved. The second issue is that the conference should produce a political formula that serves the interests of the Iraqis and is acceptable to all the sons of the Muslim Iraqi people.

So far as I know, the right conditions for securing such a political formula and making it acceptable to the Iraqi people still do not exist. And I do not believe that that can be achieved quickly during the conference. Nevertheless, we will positively support any move designed to enable the Iraqi opposition to meet in order to produce such a formula.

[Nimr] Do you not believe that the convening of the opposition conference has been delayed, and that this affects your efforts to topple the Iraqi regime?

[Al-Hakim] Without doubt that is true. But we prefer a conference that produces a formula useful to everyone to a conference that produces nothing. [passage omitted]

[Nimr] Will you participate in the Vienna conference, or will you send a representative on your behalf?

[Al-Hakim] I am currently busy with the pilgrimage ceremonies together with a large number of brothers. We still have not made a decision on that conference. [passage omitted]

Conference 'May Not Be Sucessful'

NC1206041892 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1321 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Islamic Iraqi opposition, has announced that the conference the opposition plans to hold in Vienna may not be successful. He added that no one knows if there is a consensus to hold the conference.

His eminence made these remarks during a telephone conversation with the Lebanese newspaper AL-HAYAH two days ago. The interview was published in its latest issue.

The chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] announced that the Supreme Assembly has not decided whether to attend the conference.

Ayatollah al-Hakim thanked the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the facilities it extended to Iraqi refugees who attended the hajj ceremonies.

The delegation accompanying His Eminence Sayyid al-Hakim to Saudi Arabia comprises two groups: One is made up of representatives of the people; the second is a political delegation which is conducting political talks with other Islamic delegations in the holy places.

No PKK Camp in Iraq; Kurds Seek Assets

NC1106143092 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 9 Jun 92 p 13

[Text] Diyarbakir—Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has said the Kurds will ask for their share of Iraq's $5 billion assets, frozen in the United States and Europe.

Talabani arrived in Diyarbakir yesterday in one of the helicopters assigned to the Hammer Force in southeastern Turkey. He said the recent elections in northern Iraq were held in a favorable atmosphere and hoped the same would be true of the next elections in two months. Noting that the parliament in northern Iraq will be secular and not based on religion, Talabani said they will establish democracy in northern Iraq. He also said he will brief officials in Ankara on latest developments before flying to Europe.

Talabani replied to a question as follows: "The Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] has not established a camp in northern Iraq. The PKK leader is not in northern Iraq, but he may be in al-Mawsil, which is in the Iraqi part of the country."

Antiregime Operations, Casualties Detailed

NC0906195892 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1328 GMT 9 Jun 92

[Text] Our sons in the (?marshlands) [words indistinct] jehad operations to destroy and eliminate the 'Aflaqite dens, deal crushing (?blows) to the defeated remnants, and inflict just punishment on the meek criminal followers of the outcast Saddam.

Here are just some of the operations carried out by the courageous mojahedin: The Islamic revolution mojahedin carried out a successful street ambush between al-Salam and al-Nasiriyah districts a few days ago. As a result, [words indistinct] an 'Aflaqite vehicle came under fire from the heroes. It was destroyed completely and its Ba'thist occupants were killed. In another operation, an 'Aflaqite company belonging to the 2d Regiment [words indistinct] was attacked in al-Maymunah, al-'Amarah Governorate. Our heroes inflicted grave losses on this company. Finally, a group of Islamic revolution mojahedin (?attacked) a den of the 'Aflaqites, where the al-Maymunah district chief was residing. The house was destroyed completely and a number of mercenaries were killed or wounded. Our brave units returned [word indistinct] resounding victory over the enemy of God and people until atheist Saddam is ousted.

Oil Minister Cited on Crude Processing Capacity

JN1006163592 Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, June 10, INA—Iraq's oil refineries, badly damaged during the U.S.-led war last year, can now process some 580,000 barrels per day (BPD) or some 84 per cent of pre-war capacity.

Minister of Oil Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti was quoted by a local daily as saying Iraq's refining capacity has been restored to some 580,000 BPD.

The capacity was null during the war. This means it is currently functioning at 84 per cent of its pre-war capacity.

He added that oil installations bore the brunt of allied bombings during the war that brought a large number of oil refineries to a virtual standstill due to the severe damage sustained by oil pipeline networks and storage depots. Moreover, al-Bakr oil loading terminal and gas fields were heavily raided and damaged. [passage omitted]

With regard to the post-war reconstruction drive, the minister said unrelenting efforts are currently being exerted to rebuild and reactivate war-damaged oil facilities to restore Iraq's oil production capacity to its pre-war level, indicating that the ministry's staff have recently raised production capacity to some two million BPD.

Despite difficulties and lack of spare parts because of the economic sanctions clamped on the country, the staff of the Ministry of Oil have reconstructed and reoperated a number of oil refineries by relying on available manpower and materials within a relatively short period of time, said the minister.

He went on to say that the staff have recently reconstructed three out of four berths of al-Bakr terminal damaged by U.S.-allied air strikes during the war, adding that work teams are currently engaged in assiduous work to reconstruct the fourth berth of the terminal. The work is expected to be completed in July.

Furthermore, the ministries have recently completed work on the second pumping station operating along the trans-Turkey oil pipeline which was severely damaged by allied air and missile attacks during the war, said the minister, adding that Iraq can now export some 1,180,000 barrels per day via this line.

The staff have also repaired and reoperated damaged stations operating along the Saudi Arabia pipeline. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Meets With U.S. Delegation

JN1006164492 Baghdad INA in English 1536 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 10, INA—Minister of Information and Culture Hamid Yusuf Hammadi received today delegation of the U.S. body to help war victims.

The minister explained during the meeting goals and intentions of the U.S.-led 30-state aggression against Iraq which left adverse effects by the ongoing blockade.

He added that the Iraqi people who faced up to brutal aggression by 33 states would never relinquish their

national principles, urging members of the U.S. body to exert serious efforts to intervene for breaking the unjust blockade and enlighten the American public opinion by the realities.

Minister Attends Labor Conference in Geneva

JN1006171292 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Geneva, June 10, INA—Dr Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of health and acting minister of labour and social affairs, discussed the necessity of lifting the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq with a number of Arab and foreign ministers of labour.

During his meeting, held on the margin of the International Labour Organization's session currently held in Geneva, aspects of bilateral cooperation in labour and coordination in issues listed on the session's agenda were discussed.

On the other hand, Security General of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) Carlos Coaster [name and title as received] demanded lifting the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

Mr Coaster stressed, during a meeting with chairman of Iraq's trade unions Mr Fadil Mahmud Gharib, the organization's unlimited support for Iraqi workers and its intention to convey Iraq's voice to international circles to expose the devious conspiracies machinated against the country.

Representatives of Latin American, French and Italian trade unions expressed full understanding for Iraqi workers conditions and stressed the intention to mobilize world public opinion against the continuation of the blockade.

Saddam Receives Congratulations on 'Id al-Adha

King Husayn Sends 'Id Greetings

JN1006104092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable of congratulations on the blessed 'Id al-Adha from his brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan.

The cable reads: It please me, while our Islamic nation is receiving the blessed 'Id al-Adha, to extend to you, in my own name and on behalf of the Jordanian Government and people, our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. We beseech Almighty God that this blessed occasion brings your excellency continued health and happiness, the fraternal Iraqi people continued progress and prosperity, and our Islamic nation liberation from colonialism and despotism after having recourse to God, right, and freedom, and after having resorted to its own principles and immortal message. Many happy returns.

'Id Cable From Bahraini Minister

JN1206110492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has received a cable of congratulations from His Highness Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain, on the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

The following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and president of the Republic of Iraq:

On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, we are pleased to express to your excellency our best and sincerest wishes for you, beseeching God Almighty to enable you to observe the occasion again while enjoying happiness and good health. We also wish the fraternal Iraqi people success in achieving their hopes and aspirations. May God grant you success. God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of the State of Bahrain

Senior Officials Cable Saddam

JN0906070892

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic carries in its major newscasts on 8 June several cables from senior state officials to President Saddam Husayn, congratulating him on 'Id al-Adha, renewing allegiance to his leadership, and wishing him continued good health.

In its 1030 GMT newscast, the radio carries a five-minute cable to Saddam Husayn from 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, congratulating him on the 'Id. 'Izzat Ibrahim describes Saddam as "the man of noble principles, the man of pride and dignity" who will smear the heads of enemies with the "mud of defeat." 'Izzat Ibrahim also refers to the new world order, saying that it aims at undermining the Arabs and plundering their wealth. He notes determination to rebuild Iraq, and wishes Saddam "long life" and victory over his enemies.

In its 1400 GMT newscast, the radio carries a four-minute cable from Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, who expresses his best wishes and congratulations to Saddam. He notes that the Iraqis receive 'Id al-Adha with "satisfaction, faithful hearts, and high heads, because they were honored to defend holy shrines—land, waters, and skies—and volunteered to fight infidelity and infidels, traitors, and treacherous people, to champion justice and right." Ramadan reiterates loyalty to Saddam's "brave leadership."

In the same newscast, the radio also carries a two-minute cable from Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf,

who extends congratulations and best wishes to Saddam. Ma'ruf notes that the "unyielding" Iraqis stand behind Saddam's leadership to "repulse aggression whatever its source," defend the rights and dignity of the nation, and bolster Iraq's national unity. He adds: We are confident that the "strong will of the Iraqis will eventually triumph to break the unjust blockade and thwart the schemes of enemies."

Also in its 1400 GMT newscast, the radio carries a four-minute cable from Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi. Al-Zubaydi tells Saddam that the Iraqis have pledged to "proceed forward to build great Iraq so as to remain a thorn in the sides of the forces of injustice and infidelity of the imperialists, Atlanticists and their spiteful allies." He likens the Iraqis to a "beehive" in their activity and efforts to reconstruct Iraq, and notes that the Iraqi people have become a symbol of pride and dignity. He also beseeches God to safeguard Saddam, the "leader, teacher, and father," pledging to remain loyal to Saddam's "historic leadership."

In its newscast at 1600 GMT, the radio carries a four-minute cable from Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid. Al-Majid addresses Saddam as the "great leader," and notes that this 'Id "comes while our Iraq, Mr. Leader President, is confronting the most dangerous chapter of colonialist conspiracy that aims at undermining its national unity and cultural progress, because it rejects injustice and subservience and refuses to live without dignity and pride." Al-Majid goes on to say: "Your wise leadership and the rallying of the faithful, genuine Iraqis around their giant revolution, are enough to thwart the conspiracies of enemies, whatever their nationalities and suspect affiliations with World Zionism." He also affirms that Iraqis will pursue their "counterattack" in line with Saddam's instructions through pursuing the reconstruction drive. He also pledges on behalf of "zealous men" of the Iraqi Army to remain loyal soldiers and "sharp swords" to confront everybody that is tempted to undermine Iraq.

In the same newscast, the radio carries a five-minute cable from Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, extending his best wishes and congratulations to Saddam Husayn on the 'Id. The interior minister highlights the continuing "epic of reconstruction." He wishes Saddam good health to pursue the march of jihad to break the blockade and defeat U.S. schemes. He says that "the dawn will break to dispel the darkness of the night" and the unjust blockade "will be broken." He adds that the Interior Ministry is determined to "establish the foundations of security and stability in our dear homeland after it fought all the forces of evil in the most splendid, unique legend and epic of jihad in our modern history." He also pledges, on behalf of protectors of the internal front, to remain "brandished swords" in the face of injustice."

In its 1800 GMT newscast, the radio carries a three-minute cable from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih to President Saddam on the 'Id. Salih renews loyalty to Saddam's "pioneering leadership," noting that members of the National Assembly will remain the "vigilant eye that protects the principles and values" established by Saddam for Iraq and the Arab nation. Salih adds: "The colonialist and imperialist schemes and restraints imposed by the states of aggression and injustice, led by America, on our dear country, increase our determination and strength to wrest our historical rights to our lands, waters, and economy from all the villains, the agents of the treacherous foreigner."

Efforts To Halt Iranian Nuclear Program Cited

TA1106152592 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Jun 92 p 5

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Israel is working with the United States and other countries to halt the cooperation between Western companies and Iran and Libya. These companies assisted Iraq in developing its nonconventional weapons and are now helping Iran and Libya develop such arms.

A senior government source in Jerusalem told HA'ARETZ that information has accumulated in Israel linking Western firms, some of which had previously assisted Iraq, with aid to Iran and Libya in return for astronomic sums of money.

The senior source said that Israel is deeply concerned about the activities of the firms, which provide Libya and Iran with experts and assist them in setting up infrastructures and in developing nonconventional weapons, which will be aimed at Israel in the future.

Major General Uri Sagi, head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch, said earlier this week that Iran is expected to reach nuclear capability within nine to 10 years, and if it is not stopped, Israel's very existence could be endangered.

Gen. Sagi also said that Libya is developing a missile called al-Fatah. It is a long-range missile capable of reaching 1,000 km. He said that the missile is in the early stages of development, and its technological level is low. Libya is getting assistance from Western companies for the project.

An investigation by HA'ARETZ has revealed that at least nine Western firms and dozens of atomic scientists are currently helping Iran develop an atomic program, which began in the mid-1970's under the shah. From the outset, the program was meant to match Iran's capability with that of Iraq and Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Defense sources said that there is close cooperation between Israel, the United States, and other countries in an attempt to halt these Western companies from assisting Libya and Iran.

A senior government source said that Israel will not sit idly in the face of Iran's accelerated nuclear development program. Although Iran will not have an atomic bomb for another 10 years, Israel will not wait but will use all possible means to prevent it.

Syrian Official Discusses 'Interim Arrangement'

TA1106071592 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jun 92 pp 1, 17

["Exclusive" report by Larry Kohler in Damascus, according to "special agreement with THE WASHINGTON JEWISH WEEK"]

[Text] Syria is ready to hold negotiations on the joint demilitarization of the Golan Heights and the stationing of an international supervising body there, if Israel agrees in principle to withdraw from that territory.

This statement was made last week by a Syrian official involved in the peace talks in a special interview. "We have reached agreement with Israel on the need for mutual security," said the man, who is an expert on security and defense issues on the Syrian negotiating team.

"For example, this could call for a 10-km withdrawal of Syrian soldiers from our side, with a parallel withdrawal of Israeli troops from their side. UN forces could then possibly be stationed between the two sides," the official explained, adding that "as soon as Israel commits itself to withdrawal, we will discuss all the issues necessary for an agreement."

The man noted that issues such as arms control and the supervision of the water resources on the Golan Heights, which both parties claim they need, would then be raised for negotiation in the multilateral talks, which are part of the peace process.

The official spoke anonymously, but his statements, which were made in the course of an official interview at the Syrian Information Ministry, apparently reflect a change in the Syrian position. Up till now, the Syrians have demanded that Israel must first withdraw from the Golan before any negotiations on the nature of an agreement would be possible. Now they are expressing readiness for an interim agreement ("a 10-km pullback by each party").

The Syrian official added that "It is in Syria's interest to adopt all security arrangements, which guarantee trust and stability between the two sides, including demilitarized zones, troop reductions, international supervision, and other measures."

It is worth noting that while in the past Syria rejected the Camp David accords, the official now noted that this agreement constituted a precedent, on which Syria was basing its demand that Israel withdraw from all of the Golan Heights.

The official pointed out that the Camp David agreement itself stipulates that if additional Arab countries enter direct negotiations with Israel, the talks will be conducted on the same basis as the negotiations with Egypt. He claimed that this means a total pullback.

The Syrian official claimed that more importantly, Syrian public opinion would never accept anything less than a full withdrawal, and the Syrian Government could not force its citizens to agree to a full normalization of relations for anything less than a complete withdrawal.

The Syrian expert asked: "How could Israeli tourists feel secure in the Damascus market if the Syrian public did not feel that all the territory which was taken from Syria

had been returned?" He added: "Can we give every Israeli tourist constant police protection?" These statements obviously indicate a readiness for a full normalization of relations with Israel.

The Syrian official also stressed that Israel's current control over the Golan Heights posed an unacceptable security threat to Syria.

Pointing to the 50 km separating Damascus and the Golan Heights on the map, the official said: "An Israeli presence on the Golan Heights means an Israeli presence on the entrance roads to Damascus... If a war breaks out the Israeli artillery can then shell Damascus....

"If Israeli forces remain on the Golan, Damascus—in the event of war—would be under a threat from the very outset, and all the cities in southern Syria would also be threatened. Therefore, the danger facing Syria is greater than that menacing Israel," the official claimed.

He warned: "Such a situation would impel Syria to search for and to find all means to push Israel back to the international border. No peace arrangement could guarantee stability between the two countries if part of the Golan Heights remains occupied."

At the same time, the Syrian official rejected the Israeli argument that only its control of the Golan enables it to defend the Galilee.

"The Galilee is actually higher than most of the Golan Heights," the man claimed. In addition, he asserted that the valleys, bridges, and all other natural obstacles are on the Israeli side of the international border. "That is why, in the event of a war, Syria would not be easily able to cross the border," he said.

As for the Israeli claim that if it withdrew from the Golan Heights, the settlements in the Jordan Rift Valley would again be exposed to a Syrian threat, the official said: "If the Israelis are concerned about the security of the civilian population, why do they bring people to settlements on the Golan, within range of Syrian artillery?"

Israel Will 'Never Agree' To Return Golan

TA1106182592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director-general of the prime minister's office and head of the delegation negotiating with Syria, stressed this evening that Israel will never agree to return the Golan Heights to Syria. He added that Damascus must decide whether it prefers peace and coexistence or whether its only intention is to retrieve the Golan.

In an interview with our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor, Ben-Aharon said that the prevailing impression in Israel is that Syria does not want peace in the real sense and that it is simply seeking to end the state of war. Syria refuses to reconcile itself to the existence of the State of Israel and to close down the terrorist bases on Syrian territory and in Lebanon's al-Biqa'.

Damascus Radio today criticized the remarks of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor Party Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin, both of whom stated yesterday that they regard the Golan Heights as an indivisible part of Israel.

Shamir Opposes Compromise in Dotan Affair

TA1106151492 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Jun 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Moti Bassok, Avi Bnayahu, and Qeren Neubach in the United States]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir supports the Defense Ministry's stand that Israel should refuse U.S. Congressman John Dingell's demand to allow American experts to interrogate Rami Dotan, Israel-Air-Force-officer-turned-prisoner, on the issue of Israel's procurement in the United States. The Foreign Ministry, on the other hand, favors a proposal received from the Israeli Embassy in the United States saying that the relations with the United States must not be strained and that the Americans should be allowed to interrogate Dotan in writing. Israeli security officers said yesterday that the complex Dotan affair will continue to damage Israel for a long time. It has also been learned that the Israeli proposal to allow the Americans to send written questions to Dotan—with Israeli personnel interrogating Dotan on the basis of those questions and later relaying the replies to the U.S. Department of Justice—had been raised by Israel at the beginning of the affair some six months ago, but was rejected categorically by the U.S. Administration. The administration is no more likely to accept the proposal now.

Senior officials at the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense Ministry believe that Israel has updated the United States on the Dotan affair, enabled U.S. personnel to conduct an investigation in Israel, and passed numerous related documents to Washington's for perusal. They believe that, as a matter of principle, Israel cannot respond to Congressman Dingell's demand to send investigators to Israel, even if Dingell attempts to use sanctions against Israel through the committee he heads. It is being said, both in the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense Ministry, that Israel is an independent country and no independent country would be willing to waive its sovereignty in similar circumstances. Jerusalem was encouraged by U.S. Ambassador William Harrop's remarks on the Dotan affair at an America-Israel Chamber of Commerce meeting two days ago. A senior source at the Prime Minister's Office said last night that he does not think the administration will allow Dingell's committee to take excessive measures. In his view, both the United States and Israel will soon attempt to resolve the disagreement rapidly and discreetly. At the same time, the source stressed that it is very doubtful that Dingell's committee can mete out sanctions. As for

Dingell himself, he has hinted that if Israel refuses to cooperate with him, he will act to bring about suspension of U.S. aid to Israel. [passage omitted]

In addition to the fundamental question of the U.S. right to question Israeli nationals on Israeli soil, which has been raised several times over the past few years, Jerusalem is afraid that Rami Dotan, who was sentenced to 13 years in prison, is liable to make American interrogators privy to hitherto unrevealed details that can damage the State of Israel. [passage omitted]

Defense Aide Sends Letter to Pentagon

TA1106173592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] The defense establishment's legal adviser sent a letter to the U.S. Administration today, making it clear that Israel's refusal to allow U.S. investigators to question Rami Dotan was not a violation of the agreement on military aid to Israel. The letter, addressed to the Pentagon legal adviser, says that according to Clause 117 of Israel's Penal Code a civil servant may not reveal information obtained in the course of his duty.

Our correspondent in Washington 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that, upon an authorization issued by the state attorney, Israel is willing to allow the U.S. investigators to send written questions to Dotan. The questions and the replies will be examined to prevent the transfer of material that could damage state security.

Saudi Threats Force Hamas to Disown 'Covenant'

TA1106154492 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Jun 92 p 8

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Saudi Arabia has warned Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] that if it implements the "Covenant of Honor" with Fatah, it will forfeit Saudi financial aid. For that reason, Hamas yesterday [as published] disowned the Covenant of Honor, announcing that the talks with Fatah are still in progress and that the Covenant of Honor was publicized by Fatah without the knowledge of Hamas. This has been learned from Palestinian sources in the territories.

Senior Hamas figures in Jordan are also seeking to disown the Covenant of Honor. Apparently, Saudi Arabia has a strong hold on that leadership, which has been always considered pro-Jordanian. The Palestinian sources assessed that, with the disowning of the covenant by Hamas, Jordan will begin restricting the activities on its territory of Hamas, whose allegiance has shifted to Saudi Arabia.

'Terrorists' Killed in IDF-Hizballah Clash

TA1206100092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] This is an announcement on behalf of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman: Two soldiers were slightly injured and two terrorists killed in a clash in southern Lebanon early this morning.

An IDF detail engaged in routine activity in the western sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon identified a group of terrorists early this morning. The soldiers opened fire in an assault on the terrorists. Reinforcement troops arrived at the site. Later it transpired that two terrorists were killed in the exchange of fire. Two soldiers were very slightly injured. A LAW [light antitank weapon] launcher, an RPG launcher, a radio, and other equipment were found at the site of the clash. The forces are still combing the area.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the terrorists belonged to Hizballah and were apparently headed for the security zone or Israel, where they planned to carry out an attack.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0930 GMT on 12 June adds: "Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned from the UN command that the position of a UN Nepalese contingent was damaged by tank gunfire; no one was hurt."]

Gaza 'Collaborators' Killed by Hamas 11 Jun

TA1206053092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Two residents of the Gaza Strip were killed yesterday, apparently by a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cell. Members of the Azadin gang unloaded the two from a car in Gaza city and shot them in the head. The incident took place outside the home of journalist Tawfiq Abu-Husa, who has publicly condemned collaborator killings in the territories. Members of the cell said this was their gift to Abu-Husa.

Army Turns Settlers Away From Site Again

TA1106182792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Fifteen settlers who tried to establish a settlement near Janin in Samaria have been turned away by the Army for the second time this week. On Tuesday the settlers were evacuated after they received an assurance from the Defense Ministry that eventually they would get their way. But again this evening the leaders of the settlement movement negotiated to no avail with the Army.

Reportage on Upcoming Elections, Polls, Parties

Polls—Large Number of Undecided Voters

TA1106164192 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Jun 92 p 3

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpts] There has been a large increase—30 to 35 percent—in those who have not made up their minds about whom to vote for in the upcoming Knesset elections; that is the pollsters' main finding this past week.

The outstanding phenomenon in the polls is that some 50 percent of people who voted for Likud in the 1988 elections either are saying they have not decided whether to support Likud again this time or have declared that they will support another party. [passage omitted]

Data processed by Labor shows that the gap between Labor and Likud remains between six and 10 Knesset seats. According to that data, the Likud will win between 32 and 36 seats, and Labor will win between 41 and 44 seats. [figures as published] Despite the high level of undecided voters and the lack of interest in the election campaign, the general belief is that the level of participation among Jewish voters will be high. According to Labor evaluations, the right wing has a better chance of winning over than 60 seats than does Labor. [sentence as published]

Labor also believes that the murder in Bat Yam and the events that took place in its wake will increase Tzomet's representation to five Knesset seats and double Moledet's strength to 4 seats.

Ultra-Orthodox Leaders' 'Holy Exhortation'

TA1106180492 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jun 92 p 9

[Report by Dani Kipper]

[Text] Ultra-Orthodox leaders have recently issued a "holy exhortation," urging their followers to vote for the Yahadut Hatora party only. The primary signatory is leader of the Lithuanian faction, Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach.

The "holy exhortation," which was published in the ultra-Orthodox newspaper YATED NE'EMAN, states, among other things: "We urge and compel you to vote for this list alone, because it comprises everything." The phrase means that the list represents all the ultra-Orthodox streams, Ashkenazi and Sephardi alike.

The "holy exhortation" is another serious blow to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. It is cosigned by the spiritual leaders of the Belz, Sadigura, Alexander, Wiznicz, and Boston Hasidic communities, by Rabbi Pinhas Menahem Alter, head of the Sfat Emet yeshiva and brother of the spiritual leader of Gur, and by heads of prominent ultra-Orthodox yeshivas.

Sephardim 'Not Ready' To Lead Country

TA1206053592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach, the spiritual leader of the new United Orthodox List [Yahadut Hatora], says Israeli Sephardim are not yet ready to lead the country and to be religious leaders. Speaking to heads of religious seminaries in Bene Beraq, Schach said the Sephardim must study for several more years before they will be ready to become leaders. Schach also attacked the Habad [Hasidic sect] movement and its messianic appeals.

Sources close to the Sephardi SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party expressed shock at the senior rabbi's statements, saying they referred to Sephardim as second-class citizens.

Decline in Arab Voters Forecast

TA1106160992 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Jun 92 p 7

[Report by Amnon Barzilay]

[Text] The Likud will receive thousands more votes in the Arab sector than in the previous Knesset elections, with more than 20,000 Arabs voting for it. This is the forecast of Asa al-Atrash, head of the Yafo Research Institute, after analyzing voting trends in the Arab sector. In al-Atrash's view, there are two reasons for the increase in Likud strength: One is the inclusion of Druze As'ad As'ad in a secure spot on the Likud Knesset list, and the other is Arab economic and political interests, which will push them to support the ruling party.

According to this study, the growing support for the Likud will not be affected by the sharp decline in the overall number of Arab voters in Israel. Al-Atrash told HADASHOT that Israeli Arab support for Zionist and non-Arab parties will be much higher than 50 percent of the total Arab vote. This means that Labor and Meretz will also win many more Arab votes.

Up to several weeks ago, there was a possibility that the Likud would receive more votes than Meretz in the Arab sector. That trend has been turned around, in al-Atrash's view, and the Arab vote will be divided the following way: Labor—22 percent; Meretz—10 percent; Likud—8 percent.

In recent weeks, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] has shown a marked presence in the Arab street and even it is likely to increase its support among the Arabs.

Al-Atrash claims that in the upcoming elections, the voter turnout among the Arabs will decline sharply. In the previous elections, the turnout came to 74 percent. In these elections, in al-Atrash's opinion, the turnout will reach only 65 to 68 percent. The Islamic Movement has called on Israeli Arabs to vote, al-Atrash said, but the movement's leadership is divided and some of them oppose participation in the elections.

King Husayn, 'Arafat Meet, Exchange 'Id Greetings

JN1106114492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at Raghadan Palace this morning. They exchanged congratulations and well-wishes on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

His majesty also exchanged congratulations with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council, as well as a number of PLO Executive Committee members and some Palestinian officials who had accompanied Mr. 'Arafat.

The meeting was attended by his excellency the prime minister and the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court.

Analysis Compares 1967, 1991 Conflicts

JN1106101092 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11-12 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

["News Analysis" by Lamis Andoni: "From the Sands of Sinai in 1967 to the Waters of the Gulf in 1991—the Rise and Fall of Arabism"]

[Text] Immediately after the humiliating military defeat in the 1967 war with Israel, the late pan-Arab nationalist Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir announced his resignation in a radio speech, triggering massive demonstrations across the Arab World demanding that the charismatic leader remained in power.

Subsequently, when 'Abd-al-Nasir bowed to popular pressure he made another speech describing the result of the war "as a setback" (naksah in Arabic), vowing to regain the Arab land captured by Israel and to lead the Arab World to victory.

Twenty-five years later, the Arab World has not recovered from its defeat and it has been forced to move towards a practically more pragmatic approach and accept peace talks with Israel under terms that fall short of Arab national rights and aspirations.

'Abd-al-Nasir did not live long enough to realise his declared goals (he died in 1970). The 1967 defeat is now viewed by Arab historians as a turning point that signalled a rapid collapse of pan-Arabism.

Some historians and analysts, however, argue that the 1967 military defeat could have been a starting point for Arab unity and building Arab strength if Egypt had not signed the 1978 peace treaty with Israel—which removed the most populous Arab country from at least the military equation of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This theory, endorsed by several scholars from Jordan, Egypt, Palestine and Syria, cites the revolutionary and pan-Arab national trend that swept the Arab World immediately after the 1967 war.

The wave of what appeared then to be a surge of revolutionary pan-Arab nationalist and leftist movements across the Arab World with 'Abd-al-Nasir at the helm suffered a blow when Egypt shifted its position under the late President Anwar al-Sadat in the mid-70s and throughout the 80s.

The only exception was the emergence of an independent nationalist Palestinian movement, which ironically picked up momentum after the Arab defeat, which inadvertently prompted Palestinians to decide to take their destiny into their own hands.

It was in 1969, two years after the war, nascent armed resistance groups led by Fatah, took over the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), turning into an independent representative of the Palestinian people.

Although the Palestinian movement as such was not crushed by the decline of pan-Arabism, it still suffers from the reverberation of the 1967 defeat and the developments which followed.

"The balance of power imposed by the 1967 war was reinforced again and again, finally dictating the disadvantageous terms of the current peace process," says Dr. Mustafa Barghuthi, a prominent activist from the West Bank who attended the recent Lisbon meeting to reassess the seven-month-old Middle East peace process.

Like most Palestinian activists and analysts, Dr. Barghuthi views the Camp David treaty as the major turning point that practically reinforced the sharp regional imbalance created by the 1967 war.

But some Arab analysts argue that the 1967 defeat of Egypt under 'Abd-al-Nasir had led to Camp David.

"If it was not for the 1967 defeat it would have been very unlikely that Egypt would sign a unilateral treaty with Israel," says Dr. Mustafa Hamarinah, a history professor and head of the Jordanian University Centre for Strategic Studies.

Egypt's most recognised philosopher, Dr. Mahmud Amin al-'Alim, says that it was a combination "of a historic coincidence, represented by the death of 'Abd-al-Nasir" and what he refers to as "political coups" from within the regime i.e. the rise of al-Sadat and subsequent Egyptian shift to the West, that turned the military defeat into a political and economic defeat.

"The 1967 war sparked a revolutionary wave in the Arab World," Dr. al-'Alim says. "At first there was no sign of a break-up; that was evident in the emergence of the Palestinian resistance movement and the war of attrition (that followed on the Egyptian-Israeli borders). But the military defeat was transformed into a political defeat after the death of 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat's tilt to the West."

In Dr. al-'Alim's view—shared by many in the Arab World—the 1967 war aimed not only at fulfilling Israeli expansionism but also at defeating the independent

political line as well as blunting Arab economic development represented by 'Abd-al-Nasir's regime.

Consequently, many Arabs believe, the 1967 war placed the Arab World under stronger Western domination—a result that would continue to have a strong impact in the next two decades.

But a respected Syrian military analyst, al-Haytham al-Ayyubi, argues that unlike the Gulf war the 1967 war had a chance of becoming a starting point for achieving Arab military parity with Israel was it not for Camp David.

"The 1967 war underscored for the first time the significance of endorsing the realisation of strategic parity with Israel as a crucial element in the Arab-Israeli conflict," Mr. al-Ayyubi said in an recent interview with the Jordan Times.

But the Camp David treaty and later the Iraqi defeat in the Gulf—the two events pushed the two strongest Arab countries out of the Arab-Israeli conflict—and finally the collapse of the Soviet Union rendered strategic parity almost impossible.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who came to power in a military coup in 1970, was the staunchest advocate of achieving strategic parity with Israel until Syria joined the U.S.-led coalition against Iraq in the Gulf war and finally Moscow indicated that it no longer supported such an objective.

Mr. al-Ayyubi argued that the lack of adequate financial aid to the frontline states with Israel was also a factor that impeded efforts to realise Arab strategic parity with Israel.

"Strategic parity needs money. But some Arabs are stingy when it comes to spending money on such strategic issues," he charged in an implicit criticism of the policies pursued by the rich Arab states.

The absence of democracy in the Arab world, before and after the 1967 defeat, and lack of a minimum level of Arab unity are also often cited as factors that led to the defeat in the first place and prevented a genuine recovery over the last two decades.

In a column in the AL-RA'Y daily, Jordan's leading columnist Tariq Masarwah wrote in an extremely bitter tone that the 1967 defeat was inevitable and so is the current disarray in and weakness of the Arab World as long as the Arabs are not united.

Prominent Jordanian novelist and a former Arab Ba'thist Mu'nis al-Razzaz charged that repression in the Arab World was the main culprit in the 1967 defeat and all the setbacks that followed.

"The gun-silencers are the culprit in the Arab defeats," al-Razzaz wrote in AL-DUSTUR daily. "The Gun Silencer" is the title of one of Mr. al-Razzaz's best novels depicting the alienation and disillusionment of Arab intellectuals and pan-Arabists due to the repression practised by the supposedly revolutionary regimes in the Arab world. "The Gun Silencer" symbolises the repression and the actual threat of physical elimination which, in the novelist's view, suffocated the struggle for independence and democracy in the Arab World.

Even the revolutionary movements, mainly leftist-dominated groups which sprang and spread after 1967, failed to realise the importance of democracy to the struggle for independence and the liberation of Palestine.

"The war (in 1967) did not provoke activists to think about democracy, which was not an important element within the leftist thinking," Dr Hamarinah observes. "Instead the left then endorsed a Stalinist-style revolutionary thought."

Most Arab intellectuals, politicians and activists were alerted to the centrality of democracy to boost the standing of the Arab World only after Iraq's defeat in 1991.

"This is another major difference between the implications of 1967 defeat and the 1991 defeat," Dr. Hamarinah says.

But in terms of subordination of the Arab World to Western domination, analysts find the Gulf war as extension of the 1967 defeat.

In general, the 1967 war and the main events of the last decades, particularly the collapse of the Soviet Union, have brought the Arabs to terms with dealing with the reality of the existence of Israel.

But Arab politicians note that this conciliatory shift in the Arab position has not been matched by any positive stand by Israel, which seeks to legitimise its occupation of the Arab lands it occupies and refuses to recognise Palestinian national rights.

"There is no doubt that the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, have moved to a more pragamatic position while Israel is maintaining a very hardline stand seeking to maintain the status quo that resulted after the war," Dr. Barghuthi notes. "Israel has still [to] come to terms with another important result of the 1967 war: The emergence of an independent Palestinian nationalist movement that will not simply wither away."

Release of German Hostages Reportedly Imminent

German To Travel to Syria

NC1206052692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] There are signs of a solution to the issue of the two German hostages held in Lebanon. Bernd Schmidbauer, an official accompanying German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janero, has said that he will visit Damascus on Sunday [14 June] to receive the two German hostages.

Schmidbauer visited Tehran a week ago.

Hammadis' Release Not Demanded

NC1206103592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] A source close to an important Lebanese mediator on the German hostage issue told AFP today that the hostages will be released this weekend or early next week at the latest.

The source said that the kidnappers are not demanding the immediate release of the brothers Muhamm..d and 'Ali Hammadi in return.

Sa'adah Interviewed on Party Reforms, Ja'ja'

PM1106142192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jun 92 p4

[Interview with Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What internal party reforms do you intend to introduce, particularly now that the Phalangist Party is two groupings and two parties?

[Sa'adah] In 1986, when I was first elected party leader, I began radical party reforms after the general congress held three months after my election. Everyone remembers my considerable achievements. [passage omitted]

Now, days before the leadership elections, I held a news conference and expressed my views on the general situation and stated my position on everything that has happened and is happening, and in conclusion I said that I will call for an extraordinary general congress at the end of this summer when the committees I intend to form will have prepared their reports and studies. I said that it would be tantamount to a constituent congress, but based on the party's fundamental principles.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are these fundamental principles?

[Sa'adah] Openness, dialogue, the spread of Phalangist ideas to all Lebanese areas, avoidance of bloody conflicts, a return to ideological and intellectual debate, and steady work to make the Phalangist party acceptable to all and all acceptable to the party. [passage omitted]

[Al-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Let us talk more about the congress you intend to hold at the end of this summer. What will you do at that congress?

[Sa'adah] The congress will issue recommendations on conditions in the party and general national conditions. These recommendations will then be submitted to the political bureau for approval. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What about [Lebanese Forces Commander Samir] Ja'ja'? Will you consider him in or out?

[Sa'adah] That question should be addressed to Ja'ja', not to me. The circumstances and general conditions which prevailed in the country in the past sometimes resulted in dual loyalties to the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces at the same time. That is why the first protocol on coordinating relations was introduced. After my election as party leader for the first time in 1986, another protocol was introduced but little of the two protocols was implemented.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Who was responsible for the nonimplementation? Why was there a party within the party, Phalangists within the Lebanese Forces, and a leadership here and a leadership there?

[Sa'adah] When the situation returned to normal, when the militias were dissolved and the Lebanese Forces became a political party, the Phalangists who had militarily been placed at the disposal of the Lebanese Forces had to to choose between returning to their party or becoming members of the new Lebanese Forces Party. We will not, however, allow anyone to remain a member in the Phalangist Party and maintain links with the Lebanese Forces Party. We will not allow that.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does that apply to Samir Ja'ja' himself?

[Sa'adah] Ja'ja' is a Phalangist like everyone else. It was on that basis that he was nominated for election. Therefore, either he remains a Phalangist and adheres to the party's resolutions or remains in the Lebanese Forces and acts accordingly. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Claims Israel Planning New Invasion

NC1206051692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has warned of the seriousness of the situation in the south, saying that it indicates that Israel is planning an invasion similar to that of 1982.

In an interview with Kuwait's AL-NAHDAH magazine, Junblatt said that Israel is looking for an excuse to launch a military operation against Lebanon, and perhaps against Syria as well, before the Israeli elections. He

said that Lebanese-Syrian relations will continue to be distinctive and strategic and that the bilateral brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination treaty is very important and useful to both.

Israeli-Resistance Fighting Continues in South

Patrol Attacked

NC1106194392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Some villages adjacent to the security strip came under Israeli artillery shelling this afternoon.

The National Resistance Front said one of its groups detonated an explosive device at 1230 today as an Israeli patrol was passing in the Jabal Basil area. It added that the patrol suffered a direct hit, while no members of the attacking group were injured.

Advance Halted

NC1206083092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] An Israeli occupation and agent force estimated at seven tanks, four armored personnel carriers, and three military vehicles this morning advanced toward Sribbin, in the south. Resistance fighters intercepted the force and hit it with artillery fire, preventing it from advancing toward Kafra and Yatar.

Earlier today, a clash took place between resistance fighters and occupation troops between Rshaf and Bayt Lif, leaving 10 casualties among the occupation troops. The enemy evacuated the wounded to the occupied territory by helicopter. The number of casualties among the resistance fighters is still unknown.

Intermittent clashes are currently taking place between resistance fighters and the occupation forces and their agents in Wadi Sribbin, Kafra, Yatar, and (Tallat Maryamin). The UN Interim Force in Lebanon sent armored reinforcements to the area and is urging the forces to withdraw from the area.

Shelling Continues

NC1206093492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] The Israeli aggression continued today as occupation forces shelled the outskirts of Kafra, Yatar, Kafr Rumman, Haris, Shaqra, Bra'shit, and Haddathah. The shelling extended to the outskirts of Tibnit.

At noon today, Israeli warplanes overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Shamir, Rabin Remarks on Golan Heights Viewed

JN1106203692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: On the eve of the Arabs and Muslims celebrations marking the blessed 'Id al-Adha, Zionist enemy leaders have provided further proof of their ingrained aggressive disposition, their evil instincts, and their hatred for peace. Their warplanes raided areas in southern Lebanon, causing more deaths, and inflicting further destruction and ruin. Additionally, the murder gangs that they call undercover units frightened several innocent Palestinian families. Furthermore, the two Yitzhaqs, Shamir and Rabin, went together this time to the occupied Syrian Golan to celebrate the anniversary of the June 1967 aggression, in which the Syrian Golan Heights were seized.

Shamir called for intensifying settlement activity in the Syrian Golan Heights, for Judaizing it as soon as possible, and also for changing all of its features. For his part, Rabin declared that Israel will never relinquish the Golan, nor will it ever return to the pre-1967 borders. As for Yosi Ben-Aharon, head of the Israeli negotiating team to the peace talks, he called for turning the Golan upside down so that Syria would have no choice but to abandon its occupied territories, succumb to the status quo, and conclude a peace treaty based on this.

The enemy leaders' statements are ridiculous. This is because Syria has long been aware of Zionism's ambition and its expansionist designs. It is fully aware that Zionism is the antithesis of peace, and that they can never go together. Syria has repeatedly cautioned the Arabs and the world about Israel's true intentions. Indeed, it took part in the peace talks to unmask Israel's aggressive and expansionist face to the whole world. It has now become clear to all, including friends of the Zionist entity, that the Zionist rulers do not seek peace, but rather expansion and occupation; and also that they are planning for more wars in the region, the first victim of which would be the U.S. peace initiative. Hence, we would like to say that the building of more settlements in the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories will not change the fact that the Golan is Syrian territory; that Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip are Palestinian territory; and that southern Lebanon is Lebanese territory. As for Israeli settlements, they will neither obliterate history and geography, nor erase cultural and spiritual facts. Moreover, the Zionists will be nursing big delusions if they think that the Arabs will succumb to the status quo and abandon their lands and rights. Syria has declared on numerous occasions that it will not abandon a single grain of its national soil, and that Jerusalem comes before the Golan. The Palestinians and Lebanese are translating their adherence to their national soil by launching heroic and martyring operations and engaging in daily confrontations. The best evidence we have corroborate our argument is inflamed southern Lebanon and the Palestinian intifadah, which has entered its 55th month.

As for those who are familiar with ancient and modern history, they know quite well that Arab lands have never condoned invasion, nor have they ever allowed invaders to achieve their purposes. Our region has witnessed numerous invasions. It has constantly resisted these invasions. It is true that the Crusaders managed to score some successes for a while, however they never tasted comfort or stability. This remained the case until Arab troops evicted them from the lands once and for all. Why then do the Israelis think that they will manage to impose on the Arabs what others have failed to do?

The U.S. peace initiative, as well as the talks held in Washington and Madrid, have provided a unique opportunity for the achievement of a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. However, the Israeli rulers are determined to close all doors, obstruct all efforts, and torpedo the talks. They view peace as an eventuality that will decimate their expansionist designs and kill their Torah dreams. Moreover, they repeat daily, just as they did in the Golan yesterday, their intention to continue the occupation of lands, to persist with their settlement policies, and to continue with their policies of oppression and suppression. Consequently, they are to be held responsible for destroying a genuine opportunity for peace in the region. Arab lands will never be a topic over which there can be any bargaining. Similarly, the Arabs will never abandon their lands and rights. The Golan will remain Syrian. It will return to Syrian sovereignty, just as Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon will return to their owners sooner or later.

Al-Asad Receives 'Id Cable From Bush

JN1106060492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable of congratulations on the blessed 'Id al-Adha from U.S. President George Bush. The cable reads:

On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha, I would like to extend to you and to your citizens my best wishes. I beseech God to bless our efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East through talks and to secure a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution based on UN Security Council Resolutions No. 242 and 338. I look forward to cooperating with you in order to resolve this and other problems that have been a factor of discord among the peoples of your region for some time.

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Wahdat to Participate in Interim Government

LD1006153392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Following the acceptance of the Afghan Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami by the Afghan government, Hezb-e Wahdat representatives will participate in the Afghan interim government.

According to an agreement reached between Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami representatives and the Afghan Jehad Council, the supervision of the Afghan Ministry of National Security has been entrusted to the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami.

Mr. Zahedi, a Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami Supreme Supervisory Council member, said when interviewed by an Iranian Television correspondent: According to the agreements, from now on eight representatives from the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami will become members of the Jehad Council and one of the Leadership Council.

He also said that apart from the Ministry of National Security, the supervision of two other ministries is to be entrusted to the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Melli [National Unity Party].

The agreements were reached after several rounds of negotiations between the interim government representatives and the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami.

National Security Ministry Given to Shiites

BK1206084692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0836 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 12 (AFP)—Afghanistan's interim president has handed over the powerful national security ministry to his disgruntled Shiite allies in a bid to consolidate the base of his caretaker government, a spokesman said Friday.

The 70-year-old Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, who is scheduled to hand over power to a mojahedin council in 16 days, has also agreed to give away two other ministries to the eight-faction Hezb-e Wahdat Shiite combine in an agreement reached earlier this week, the spokesman from the group said.

The pact formally unites the minority Wahdat forces with the northern coalition which, helped by communist collaborators, ousted the Soviet-installed regime of former president Najibollah in April.

"We have signed an agreement after Mojaddedi wrote to us," the Wahdat official said, referring to the pact that also gives the Shiites eight berths in the caretaker president's 51-member Islamic revolutionary council.

The pro-Iran Wahdat, archrival to Pashtun-speaking Sunni mojahedin leaders such as Golboddin Hekmatyar and 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf, had refused to join Mojaddedi's administration without a hefty representation. The group fought pitched street battles in Kabul last week with the Ettehad-e-Eslami, a Pashtun group.

The spokesman did not specify the two other ministries given to the Shiite combine, but sources said the agriculture and commerce ministries, whose buildings are already occupied by the Wahdat, would go to the minority group.

The seven mojahedin factions who were previously based in Pakistan hold five seats each in Mojaddedi's council, the Wahdat has eight, its Shiite ally, the Hezb-e-Harakat, has five, and independents have three.

"The Wahdat will also participate in the supreme mojadedin leadership council," the Shiite official said, referring to the powerful body which is scheduled to take over in the second phase of transition from communist to Islamic rule.

Diplomats and observers here saw the pact as an attempt by Mojaddedi to consolidate his power base before the handover to the supreme council, whose members have openly advocated elections to set up a durable administration.

The moderate interim president, who heads a minor party and draws strength from his charismatic defence minister, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and his Uzbek Militia allies, has been suggesting the holding of a Loya Jerga or grand asembly to poll a new leadership in Afghanistan.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, to whose Jamiat-e Eslami party Mas'ud belongs, does not agree with Mojaddedi's stand, and has launched his own diplomatic and political offensive in Kabul in favor of elections.

Mojahedin Gunners Fire on Russian Transport Plane

BK1206070692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 12 (AFP)—Mojahedin gunners opened fire with anti-aircraft guns Friday as a huge Russian transport plane made its final landing approach at Kabul airport, witnesses said.

The Il-76 dodged shells fired from the southern edge of the city and dropped anti-missile flares before touching down, apparently unscathed by the salvoes directed at it, the witnesses said.

It was not known what the plane was carrying, and officials at the Russian Embassy here were not immediately available for comment.

It was the second attack since caretaker President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's plane was shot at and damaged on his return from a visit to Pakistan last month. The governemnt blamed that attack on rebels belonging to holdout mujahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, who however denied responsibility.

More recently unknown gunners fired at an Ariana Afghan airlines flight as it was about to take off but missed.

Bangladesh

Burma Fails 'Commitment' To Halt Refugee Influx

BK1106063492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0559 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Dhaka, June 11 (AFP)—Burma has failed to keep its commitment to stop the influx of Burmese Moslem refugees into Bangladesh, as hundreds of new arrivals have been recorded since the last bilateral meeting early this week, officials said Thursday.

The Burmese side had promised during Monday's meeting to take immediate steps to stop the influx of the refugees, known as Rohingyas, but 400 new refugees have entered Bangladesh since then, officials said.

About 270,000 Rohingyas, mostly sheltered in 14 camps in the southeastern frontier district of Cox's Bazar, started fleeing their homes in Burma's Arakan state since March, 1991, speaking of atrocities by the Burmese troops.

State-run Radio Bangladesh said the unofficial number of refugees was 300,000.

Rangoon's military government denies the atrocity allegations as "baseless."

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman held talks Wednesday with his Burmese counterpart, Ohn Gyaw, on the repatriation of the Rohingyas, the official BSS news agency said without giving details.

Both the minister are heading their delegations to the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

The repatriation, scheduled to have started on May 15, was stalled after the Rohingyas refused to return home without guarantees of safety and the decision by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) not to participate in the process unless it was allowed onto the Burmese side of the border.

Bangladeshi officials have also blamed several aid agencies for instigating the refugees not return home and this week restricted the free movement of some 20 of these organisations within camp areas.

India

Country To Enter Defense Electronics Field

BK1006113392 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Jun 92 p

[Text] New Delhi—India is all set to enter the international market for defence related electronic equipments in a big way. The government is chalking out a programme with the Indian industry for promoting defence equipment exports. The main items under consideration are defence electronics, complete systems, sub-systems, sub-assemblies and components.

The programme to be undertaken jointly by the Indian industry, Ministry of Defence, Public Sector Undertakings, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Directorate General of Ordinance Factories (DGOF), will focus on private sector's participation in promoting defence exports.

The programme will operate primarily through participation in defence exhibitions and visit of delegations to select markets abroad and is being taken up through PEC [expansion unknown], the world agency for such defence related matter.

The details of this joint (?thrust) programme with the industry's participation is being worked out by the ministry and government agencies with the help of industry associations and will be announced shortly.

The Ministry of defence has also decided that task groups would associate representatives of industry associations like the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), some of who already have interaction with the ministry in this regard and also interact with the Directorate General of Trade and Development (DGTD) and other authorities concerned in the shortlisting of firms which could be prima-facie considered capable of developing the various items listed.

These groups would also acquaint such shortlisted firms with the requirements both in quantitative and qualitative terms. If necessary, suitable arrangements would also be made for exhibiting the samples in various places.

The basic objective to involve the private sector in defence production and exports was to indigenise defence procurement to save foreign exchange and suit the country's climatic condition. Apart from this, the private sector could specially help in boosting exports, particularly in defence electronics.

After prolonged interactions, it was decided that the Indian industry could be involved in supply of complete systems, sub-systems, subassemblies and components in the defence sector. It has also been decided to have further closer interaction between the defence R & D labs and industry associations for which a suitable meachanism would be adopted soon.

Industry associations like CII is already assisting DGQA in preparation of defence items for export. A part of the expenditure involved is proposed to be met by the industry.

Firms To Invest $4.4 Billion in Power Sector

BK1006163692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Eight private foreign companies have given initial commitments for investing $4.4 billion in the power sector in India by setting up projects for generating 4,700 megawatts of electricity. Briefing newsmen in New Delhi today about this recent visit to the United States, Britain, and Singapore, the cabinet secretary, Mr. Naresh Chandra, said that six foreign companies have indicated that they would like to set up projects totaling 2,600 megawatts. He said a decision has also been taken to organize a task force comprising officials of the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, and the Department of Power to coordinate and catalyze private power projects in states.

Agni Missile Launch 'Despite' U.S. Ban Hailed

BK1006142292 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 30 May 92 p 13

[Editorial: "Agni-II"]

[Text] The second successful launching of the Agni intermediate range ballistic missile on Friday indicates more than anything else that India's missile development programme is still intact despite Washington's putting hurdles ostensibly under the missile technology control regime [MTCR]. The progress achieved by our space scientists in both civilian and defence rocket technology, specially in the wake of the US sanctions, first Prithvi then the ASLV [Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle] and now Agni, also shows that the Indian space programme is in safe hands and that the civilian and defence space personnel working under the leadership of Prof. U. R. Rao and Dr Abdul Kalam are capable of driving themselves hard to prove their mettle under adverse conditions. Even if our space progress has come in for a lot of flak from the US, India has shown to the world what it means to be self-reliant. When the US Government imposed a ban on ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] for negotiating with its Russian counterpart the sale of cryogenic rocket engines, Washington's ire was in fact directed at the Indian breakthrough in Agni and its fear of the Indian Army acquiring the Agni missile fleet eventually. Far from remaining a mere "technology demonstrator", the second Agni success comes at a time when both China and Pakistan have been flexing their nuclear muscles. It could not have come at a more propitious time when both our neighbours seem to understand only the language of matching deterrence.

Washington and its allies have been swearing by non-proliferation and their strict adherence to the MTCR ever since India successfully test-fired the first Agni missile with a range of 2,500 kms in May 1989. They did their best to deny the Indian space establishment the vital guidance components and on-board-computers for Agni. These two act as the brain of the missile. This rather unfriendly attitude did not deter our scientists and engineers from developing their own indigenous substitutes which have now paid them rich dividends. The US policy-makers must now realise that the harder they drive our space scientists to the point of desperation, the more futile will be the former's efforts and the more successful will the latter prove in achieving their set goals. The breakthrough in Agni is not just a matter of developing our own guidance and computer systems on board the last stage of the missile, but developing other launch vehicle technologies as well. These pertain to re-entry dynamics and rocket engines needed for civilian and defence missiles. There is a considerable difference in launching a satellite carrying rocket and a missile like Agni. In the civilian rocket vehicles ascent temperature during re-entry stage is of the order of 3000 to 5000 degree centigrade. That means the metallurgy needed in fabricating the last stage of the Agni missile should be such as to withstand these high temperatures. All this has been achieved indigenously by our scientists.

Missile Development Viewed

BK1206101692 Delhi PATRIOT in English 1 Jun 92 p 4

[Editorial: "After Agni, what?"]

[Text] After the successful blast-off on May 20 of the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV), has come another "technology demonstrator", this time in the field of defence technology, the launching of the 2500 km-range one-tonne pay load surface-to-surface missile, Agni II. After the success in the blast-off, the Agni II seems to have developed a snag in the scond, or the re-entry, phase. But this does not matter much. A number of technologies are involved in launching missiles: in Agni II, only one of them has had some problems. It should not be difficult for our scientists and engineers to correct this defect. In the field of space research for peaceful and civilian uses, there were as many failures as successes in ASLV launches—between the blast-off of Aryabhata from Russia in 1975 and the May 20 take-off from Sriharikota. It is from their failures that our space scientists have drawn lessons which have brought them successes. But the question is: What after the "demonstrator effect"? The three years' delay in launching Agni II has had an adverse effect on the morale of our defence scientists and created an impression in the public that in the political uncertainties which came soon after the launching of Agni I in July 1989, our political leadership could not withstand the pressures from Western powers to refrain from further development of indigenous missile technology. While taking a decision on what to do with our technological capability in the field of missiles, our political leadership cannot forget that in our neighbourhood China, Kazakhstan, Iran and Saudi Arabia possess missiles and missile technologies of varied range and that Pakistan has a missile programme under way, aside from the fact that it can get missiles from the Saudis and China. The latter has been a source of missile technology for Pakistan.

India has to develop its strategic weapon for the kind of threat-potential posed by proliferation of nuclear arms and delivery systems in our neighbourhood. It is a modest consolation that, despite tremendous odds, we have kept our options open. But that is not enough. Now is the time to make up for the mistake we made 18 years ago when Pokharan was not followed up with the logical next step. Now we have reached a situation in which we have to be prepared for an immediate response to any threat to our country. Ultimately, of course, there is no solution to the problem of proliferation, except a total ban, as we have been advocating all along. But we can negotiate for a ban not from a position of weakness entailed by our "have not" status. We have to acquire a position of parity to be able to negotiate as an equal. But this would mean facing unimaginable pressures and armtwisting. We can put up with all this and undergo all consequential hardships, if our political leadership shows determination and strives for a national consensus. The ruling party has to take the initiative and the others have to rise above partisan interests if the threats to the nation are to be thwarted.

24-Hour West Bengal Strike 'Peaceful So Far'

BK1006162892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] In West Bengal, the bundh [strike] called separately by the ruling Left Front and the Congress-I in Calcutta and Howrah is peaceful so far, barring one or two minor incidents. This was disclosed to newsmen in Calcutta today by the state chief secretary, Mr. N. Krishnamurthy. The public transport did not ply. Markets were closed and attendance in central and state government offices was thin. The long-distance trains were held up at Santragachhi, Ramrajatola, and Bakhsara. Some of these trains were, however, brought to Howrah station. One person was injured when a bomb was thrown at a procession in north Calcutta. He was later discharged from the hospital.

As already reported, a 24-hour bundh call was given in Calcutta by the ruling Left Front in protest against the postponement of the counting of votes of the by-elections in the Ballygunge assembly constituency. The Congress-I, on the other hand, had given the call for a 12-hour bundh in greater Calcutta and Howrah municipal area to protest against the violence and alleged massive rigging by CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] in the Ballygunge by-election. The 31 Congress-I supporters, including the MLA [member of legislative assembly] Mr. Sudip Bandopadhyay, who were arrested for violation of prohibitory orders, have since been released.

11 Persons, 9 Militants Killed in Punjab

BK1106090492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] In Punjab, 11 members of two families and nine militants were killed since last night. Police said militants raided the village Kalikewal in Faridkot District last night and shot dead 11 members of two families after taking the residents out of their homes. Two others were injured in the incident.

'World's Largest' Heroin Seizure in Bombay

BK1206062292 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] The world's largest seizure of heroin this year was made by the Bombay police early this week. Our correspondent Geeta Dumbar reports from Bombay:

[Begin recording] Another seizure of 354 kg of heroin was seized by the narcotics cell of the Bombay Police. The heroin had been smuggled in from Pakistan through the Rajasthan border. This has been valued at rupees 700 million in the Indian market and about $150 million at the international market. Nearly 250 liters acetic anhydride has also been seized. This chemical substance is used to convert opium into heroin. Many pharmaceutical books on how to make and how to convert heroin was also discovered at the hideout. According to police estimates this haul is sufficient for nearly 1.8 million drug addicts in the country. The drug traffickers, who were armed to the teeth, have been arrested and are now under interrogation. Police suspect a larger gang involved in the operation. [end recording]

Over 70 Million Affected by Severe Drought

BK1006141492 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 30 May 92 p 9

[Text] Bombay, May 29—Over 70 million people and 18 million hectares of cropped area, spread over seven farm-economy States, are gripped by drought-distress and the future holds little promise to them.

The drought-caused loss in terms of kharif [autumn season] foodgrains is placed at over Rs 3,000 crore and for cash crops like cotton and oilseeds it is estimated at about Rs 5,000 crore. The severity of the distress is demonstrated by the fact that over 11,000 villages in 150 talukas [revenue areas] of 17 districts of Gujarat, covering over 20 million people and one million cattle, are drought-hit. The entire State of Kerala is gripped by scarcity problems. In Maharashtra, over 28,000 of its 39,000 villages with a population of nearly 30 million and covering 59 million hectres of cropped area are facing ruin. Nearly 40,000 villages, covering over 78 million hectares of cropped area in Rajasthan, are drought-hit.

Although dark clouds of deep economic calamity are glowering at such vast agriculture-dominated areas, no rain-clouds are anywhere in sight to relieve their distress. The prospects of south-west that should visit these areas in June-Sept, 1992, are rated on the lower side by expert weather-readers, both scientists and astrologers.

The prolonged drought has caused three basic problems for these millions of people: inadequate availability of

foodgrains; acute scarcity of drinking water and starvation-level supplies of fodder. The worst drought-gripped seven States are: Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mahrashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal.

The Governments of these States have already initiated relief operations like provision of employment, supply of drinking water and fodder for the cattle. These States have told the Central Government that they would need large assistance to tide over the current-level drought extent and intensity. Their demands are really large: Maharashtra needs Rs 834 crore, while Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have asked for Rs 650 crore, Rs 220 crore and Rs 50 crore, respectively.

The foodgrain demands of the drought-hit States have created problems: the off-take of foodgrains by the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the 11-month period ended February last, was 17.3 million tonnes against 14 million tonnes drawn during the previous corresponding period.

The foodgrain procurement, for the Central pool, could not match the demand. In fact, Government procurement of foodgrains during the 11-month period beginning April 1991 declined by 21 percent to 18.1 million tonnes, compared to 22.9 million tonness compared to 22.9 million tonnes procured during the previous corresponding period. The result is that the Central pool had only 13.4 million tonnes of foodgrains in stock on March 1, 1992, compared to 18.8 million tonnes on March 1, 1991.

Rao Leaves For Brazil To Attend Earth Summit

BK1006092492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, left New Delhi this morning for Spain on his way to Brazil for taking part in the ongoing Rio Earth Summit. He was given a warm send off for the Race Course Road airfoce station by his cabinet colleagues, chiefs of three services, and a large number of party MP's and leaders. The prime minister is being accompanied, among others, by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, and the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit. Mr. Narasimha Rao will be reaching Rio de Janeiro tomorrow after an overnight halt at Madrid. Mr. Rao is expected to be the first visiting head of government to address the summit after its formal opening on Friday. In his address, he is likely to spell out India's stand on vital environmental issues which are of global interest.

Our correspondent reports that the discussions on the UN Conference on Environment and Development have brought to light points of agreement as well as differences among the participating countries. Mr. Narasimha Rao will have meetings with the other world leaders in the Brazilian capital. The most crucial perhaps would be his meeting with the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. Islamabad's support for terrorism in Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir is likely to figure prominently during the meeting. Mr. Narasimha Rao is also expected to meet the Chinese prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, and the U.S. president, Mr. George Bush.

Rao Stops Over in Madrid

BK1006161092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The prime minister arrived in Madrid this afternoon on his way to Brazil. He was received at the airport by the Indian ambassador, Mrs. Manorama Bhalla, and the representatives of the Indian community. During his stopover in the Spanish capital, Mr. Narasimha Rao will have a meeting with the country's acting prime minister, Mr. (Fena). He will also meet representatives of the Indian community tonight. Mr. Narasimha Rao will leave Madrid tomorrow morning for Rio de Janeiro.

China, Brazil, India 'Working Together'

BK1006163392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] India, China, and host Brazil are working together at the Rio summit on the environment for raising resources and transfer of technology to developing countries. The environment minister, Mr. Kamal Nath, has had consultations with leaders of several countries, including the United States, Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, and Pakistan.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi today that the developing countries are advocating the principle of polluter paying for the damage caused. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, will be the first speaker when the summit begins on Friday. He has a hectic schedule, besides summit deliberations. Mr. Rao will meet several heads of government and state, including Mr. George Bush, Mr. John Major, Mr. Li Peng, and Mr. Nawaz Sharif. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, and the foreign secretary, Mr. J.N. Dixit, accompanying the prime minister, will have discussions on bilateral and international issues with their counterparts from various countries.

In an interview to our special correspondent, P.G.S. Trehan, covering the Rio conference, Mr. Kamal Nath said India wants all rich and poor nations to cooperate for the achievement of rapid and sustainable development. Our correspondent reports that Mr. Kamal Nath held a meeting with his Swedish counterpart last night, where the issues of bilateral cooperation were discussed. He also thanked Sweden for appreciating ground realities faced by developing countries in general and India in particular. Sweden has now taken the stand that a sustainable management of forests will suffice. Our correspondent adds that barely two days left for the summit, more and more countries are falling in line with the Indian views.

Agreement With Greece on Combating Terrorism

BK1206032492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] India and Greece have agreed to work closely in combating international terrorism. The matter came up prominently during talks between the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, and the visiting secretary general of the Greek minister of Foreign Ministry, Mr. P. Economou, in New Delhi recently. Mr. Faleiro expressed India's deep concern over Pakistan's efforts to instigate terrorism, especially in Kashmir. The two leaders also discussed the recent deevlopments in the Central Asian Republics. Several other issues including Cyprus, the Nonaligned Movement, and human rights also figured in the talks.

Iran

President Delivers 'Id al-Adha Prayers 12 Jun

NC1206044092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] The 'Id al-Adha prayers were held in a spectacular way nationwide. In Tehran, people gathered at Tehran University hours ago to attend the prayers on this auspicious day, led by Hojjat ol- Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In his sermon, which began about 15 minutes ago, the president congratulated the Muslims of the world and the great nation of Islamic Iran on the auspicious 'Id al-Adha and discussed the importance of the hajj in Islam as well as domestic and international issues. The president said the basis of the 'Id al-Adha is the manifestation of mankind's selflessness, adding that today is the day for men to demonstrate their devotion and generosity. The president said: Fortunately, this year's pilgrimage was good. Even though the arrogant mass media nearly censored news about this year's hajj pilgrimage, a relatively good hajj was held. The deliverance from pagans ceremony was held in an orderly manner, and world Muslims clearly heard the leader's Islamic and revolutionary thoughts and ideas. The president expressed his appreciation for the leader's advice—which was very effective in marking the ceremony in a favorable manner—and for the sagacity of the officials and people in charge of the deliverance from pagans ceremony.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: This is the first time Saudi Arabia has allowed the ceremonies to be held officially.

The auspicious 'Id al-Adha sermon is being carried live at this moment from the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Second Network:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording, live or recorded; broadcast in progress] ...so that the message of selflessness is conveyed on this day and the mission that the Islamic ummah has can be conducted well and so that we can conduct our duties and thank God. We see this path to be open. The sacred soul of our great imam—and I know that until the last moments of his life he was worried that the path to the Kaaba was closed to our nation—is happy now that he sees that the Islamic Republic performed an orderly hajj ceremony; that the largest crowd belonged to the Islamic Republic; and that the Islamic Republic is marking a most respectable ceremony; and, God willing, his soul will be happier in the future. [end recording]

Report Analyzes Current Economic Situation

NC1106155592 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 9 Jun 92 p 1, 9

[First of an unspecified number of installments of a report by Jihad al-Zayn from Tehran]

[Text] The joke in some Tehran religious leaders' circles is that one religious leader went on a pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, visited some cities in the kingdom, and returned home to tell his turbanned colleagues: "The time has come for the Islamic revolution in Saudi Arabia. Fahd has completed all the big development projects that his kingdom needs!"

The sarcasm will not be completely understood without linking it to the economic wrath prevailing in Iran and which prompts some circles inside and outside the authority to speculate on what big projects the Islamic revolution has accomplished until now. All that have been accomplished and can be seen, particularly in the capital, date to the shah's era and include roads, hotels, and modern buildings.

The achievements are not rare. The big project during the term of the religious authority is the building of gas pipelines for heating and lighting to every home in Iranian cities and many suburbs and neighboring villages. The subway public transportation project, three lines from the center to the south (Khomeyni's grave), from east to west, and from north to south, will take at least a year and a half to complete.

What worries the Iranians—authority, experts, intellectuals, and people—is not the projects but the standard of living. It is almost an accepted fact in informed circles that the gap between the rich and the poor is now wider than it was during the shah's regime. Such a situation raises problems well known in other countries: The spread of bribes and the decrease in personal productivity accompanied by a drop in the purchasing power of salaries, the minimum ranging from 8,000 to 12,000 tumans, around $55 to $80, a month.

In such an atmosphere, it is possible to understand what Iran's spiritual leader, 'Ali Khamene'i, in his message to the new (fourth) consultative council when it started its work on 2 June, meant when he called on council members to tackle poverty, telling the 270 representatives—only 83 of whom are from the previous council;

the rest are mostly from the "technocrats who support Rafsanjani's policies", as they are described in Tehran—"In the planning of state projects, priority must be given to combating poverty and assisting the oppressed."

The state, particularly President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, did not think it would receive such early warnings of the seriousness of the social situation. A few days after strongman Hashemi-Rafsanjani—most observers see him as the only one—boasted in a speech that "the surgical operation that the Iranian economy is undergoing is happening calmly and without significant social cost, some Iranian cities responded. Disturbances broke out in Mashhad, the city where the tomb of Imam Rida is located, Shiraz, and Arak on 30 May. The official statement issued by the interior minister admitted that 10,000 people participated and described them as extortionists and gang men working with the owners of unlicensed buildings."

The Interior Ministry's statement was criticized, even by political circles close to the regime, describing it as "illogical," because "everyone knows that most of the demonstrators were not gangsters and that the problem is far from being an issue of some people breaking the law when thousands of people demonstrate to protest deteriorating living conditions, even if there was destruction, looting, and confrontation with the security forces." According to these circles, events in Mashhad, Shiraz, and Arak were notable, mostly because demonstrators criticized some religious figures and raised slogans hostile to them.

While knowledgeable observers do not rule out some anti- Rafsanjani forces helping to instigate events, they point to the "fertile soil" created by the severe economic situation leading to such political action. They note the significance of troubles erupting in Mashhad for the second time in three days, on 3 June, the day before the third anniversary of the death of Imam Khomeyni. These observers say the "red light" of warning, signalling the gravity of the situation, can be said to have lit up if the troubles spread to the capital itself.

Around 10,000 people from all over the Islamic world came to Tehran at the invitation of official Iranian bodies to commemorate Khomeyni. They soon noticed the "U-turn" in Tehran's streets.

Wherever the visitor goes, he sees a multitude of signs advertising all sorts of foreign goods, something which is not that much different from a capital such as Beirut, except for cigarettes, which, as in many other countries, including France, cannot be advertised, although traders sell all kinds of cigarettes. There are no advertisements for alcohol.

These signals alone indicate the tremendous economic change which started with the approval of the five year plan beginning 1 March 1989. This plan encourages the flow of foreign capital into Iran and allows imports of all sorts of goods. It also adopts, for the first time, the policy of borrowing from abroad. This is an important change in a country that emerged from long years of war with Iraq with almost no debts.

Thus, the economic crisis relating to a drop in purchasing power for the limited-income categories, coupled with inflation, is intensifying not in a small market but amidst an abundance of goods that Iran has not seen since the fall of the Shah. The shops are packed with all kinds of luxury as well as essential items. Although most automobiles are ordinary old cars assembled in factories set up by the Shah, the modern luxurious cars imported from abroad are being seen more in front of public places, particularly opposite the vast green parks that the people of Tehran started to enjoy again after the Tehran Municipality's recent decision to open them to the public. Noticeable is the remarkable habit exclusive to Iranians—individuals, couples, and families of various social classes walking around and staying out past midnight in public parks. Despite the standard uniform, some clothes stand out for their quality, including some long dresses worn by women over their modest, loose trousers. The colors and artistic touches to these garments speak of the wearer's financial prosperity.

The prevailing customs, be they the uniform or the religious tone in all public messages in the press, radio, and television, are coupled with an economic transformation, consolidating production and marketing and no different from any other place in the world with a market economy. It is as if "Rafsanjani's Iran", extremely religious in terms of thinking and traditions, has finally stopped looking in jurisprudence and in practice for something that is no longer there—the "Islamic economy." Germany, Japan, and Italy occupy the top three ranks in investment and trade, but Iran is accepting the fact that an Islamic state and society can be founded on the basis of a Western economy. In this, Iran is relying on a jurisprudential justification by Imam Khomeyni, who permitted what he called "secondary rulings", as opposed to the traditional jurisprudential line which emphasises the supremacy of "primary rulings."

Basij Forces Confirm Allegiance During Exercises

LD1206081792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Excerpt] More than 5,000 Basij sisters and brothers, as well as fighters under the command of the South Tehran Guards, renewed their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution at Rah Ahan Stadium on Thursday. They also stressed their ever increasing presence on the revolution scene.

According to our correspondent's report, the Basij forces, the personnel of Brigade 1 of Tehran's Abuzar Batallion, marched in streets of south Tehran at the conclusion of their gathering and staged excercises displaying their speedy actions in confronting activities by the antirevolutionaries.

During the gathering Brigadier General Izadi, commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, referred to the country's current sensitive situation and stressed the necessity of safeguarding and strengthening the preparedness of the Basij resistance forces.

The Basij fighters issued a resolution stressing their unshakeable allegiance to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The Basij forces of Tabriz staged a huge demonstration on Thursday, renewing their allegiance to the leader of the Islamic revolution. They condemned the conspiracies hatched by the enemies of Islam and their agents. [passage omitted]

'Repressive' Saudi Stance Against Shiites Viewed

LD1106110692 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—In an article signed by Mohammad-Taqi Jaafari Thursday the Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" warned against the adoption of an amicable attitude towards the Saudi Government.

It said while the Saudi Government exercised highly repressive policies against Shiite Muslims in Saudi Arabia, Iran and that country could never be true friends or allies. It added the Shiite Muslims in Saudi Arabia who number about 1.5 million are under various oppressive pressure by the Saudi Government. It said Shiites in Saudi Arabia could not freely engage in practicing their faith, and in chanting the "Azan", for example, they had to delete a whole line which attests to the imamate of Imam Ali (AS) [Peace be upon him].

The article was commenting on a recent statement by an Iranian diplomat (ambassador to Saudi Arabia) who referred to Iran and Saudi Arabia as "the two wings of the bird of Islam without which Islam could not take flight." It said the Iranian diplomats would do better to realize the factual realities and remember Imam Khomeyni's statement that "in our foreign policy every step backward by us will be followed by one step forward on the part of our enemies." It said "at times a good defence acts as a well-planned attack against our foreign invaders."

The commentary said because of the extremely hostile attitudes of the Saudi Government against Shiite Muslims Iran cannot possibly be an ally to that country. It recommended that Iran "attack the political and cultural bastions of the enemy who is lying in ambush to raid the Islamic values so that we will thereby have acted upon the last will and testament of the imam, so that we will have occupied the key bastions of the world one after another, and so that we shall be able to hoist the banner of Islam on the loftiest mounts of the world."

Allegations of Lockerbie Involvement Denied

LD1106111292 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Paris, June 11, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Wednesday rejected allegations in the current issue of the weekly 'EVENEMENT JEUDI' which implicated Iran in a Pan Am crash over Lockerbie, southern Scotland, December 1988.

EVENEMENT JEUDI says Iran and Ahmed Jibrail leader of a militant Palestinian group were involved in the bombing of the Pan Am plane which killed all her crew members and passengers.

The weekly attributes its report to 'exclusive information' offered by the lawyers of the Pan American.

The press section of the Iranian Embassy here said Wednesday that the report by the weekly simply aims to impair the good opinion of the world people about the international position of Iran.

Daily Views Pilgrimage, Pakistan, 'Palestine'

LD1106134592 Tehran IRNA in English 0851 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—In its weekly commentary on the major national and international issues of the week, the Persian daily 'JOMHURI ESLAMI' adverted to the pilgrimage in Mecca, the status of Muslims in Pakistan, occupied Palestine, and in Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H).

On the current Muslims pilgrimage to Mecca the commentary said in part:

"Nowadays the Muslim world is fixing its eyes on 'the land of revelation' as two million-plus world Muslims are awaiting the feast of 'Id al-Adha.

"Previously the Muslims in Mecca staged a rally in Mecca in demonstration of their hatred of pagans and of the United States and Israel and other arrogant world powers shouting to the top of their voice against the savage occupiers and against the people committing crimes against Muslims throughout the Muslim world.

"This week also the leader of the Islamic Republic referred to the Islamic revolution as 'the most brilliant and the proudest models of the present day' adding that in order to safeguard that hallmark of the revolution the servants of the system should work sincerely. He said: Our Islamic system is standing firmly against the position and operations of the big powers and it is blocking their way and preventing the arrogant governments from attaining their illegitimate goals."

On the situation in Pakistan the daily said in part:

"it is a saddening fact that the petrodollars of the Saudi house in Riyadh are being spent for dividing Muslims and killing them en masse.

"Certain terrorist perpetrations in Pakistan has taken the life of the leading leaders of Shiite Muslims in Pakistan and of the best personalities of Islam.

"The Shiite communities in Pakistan are to stage their protest against that on the 'Id al-Adha in a bid to seal the end of the current wave of mass killings in Pakistan."

On the situation in the occupied Palestine the commentary said:

"This week the Zionists attacked Lebanon by air raids and by their ground artillery as well as by sea. The killers in the occupied Palestine went on a rampage of killing innocent people of Palestine.

"There are doubts as to when the Zionists will desist from further killings, but all experience indicates that the Zionist regime will stop its criminal perpetrations only when it receives smashing blows from the other side."

On the situation in B-H and the status of its Muslims, the commentary said:

"Although the leader of the Serbs has ordered that the siege of Sarajevo be ended and that crimes against Muslims be terminated, it seems that a secret order (for killing Muslims) for continuing crimes is being given better consideration and acted upon as the true order.

"Certain evidences suggest that the West has adopted dubious positions in that respect, and that it is not after any immediate action for preventing the Serbs from their criminal acts.

"The role of the Muslim countries, too, is questionable, in the light of their leisurely plan for arranging a conference. A conference which is not yet known how it will tackle the problem."

Envoy to Azerbaijan Cited on 'Transient Propaganda'

LD1106202192 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 11, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to the newly independent Republic of Azerbaijan says that the deep relations between Tehran and Baku cannot be affected by transient propaganda.

The ambassador, 'Ali Akbar Nehavandian in an interview published in the Persian daily "ETTELA'AT" said Thursday that having good relations with Muslim countries and neighboring countries has always been an important part of Iran's foreign diplomacy.

"To defend the rights of world Muslims is another point raised by our Constitution. Therefore, besides being neighbors with the people of Azerbaijan republic, we have ample potentiality for expansion of ties because of our historical, cultural, traditional and religious bonds," he said.

"The Islamic republic views the establishment of a lasting and stable system (of government) in Azerbaijan based on votes of people as a great development essential for outbreak of other positive developments in that republic," the ambassador pointed out.

On Iran's mediation efforts to solve Azerbaijan-Armenia dispute over Karabakh, the ambassador said "the Islamic republic could not longer see a war spreading across its border.

"It initiated its mediation efforts on humanitarian and Islamic grounds following requests from both belligerent sides, because bloodshed among innocent people is in no way acceptable to us, especially when the blood of a Muslim may be shed."

If the warring sides (the Azeris and Armenians), Nehavandian said, had sat at the negotiating table, both would have undoubtedly enjoyed the fruits of peace.

The ambassador, saying that Iran's Foreign Ministry has already declared that it would by no means accept any changes in the geographical boundaries of Azerbaijan, made it clear "if anybody wishes Iran to resume its mediation, a precondition for such a move is the return of forces to the pre-Tehran meeting positions."

Nehavandian was referring to a meeting last month between Azerbaijani and Armenian officials held in Tehran in the presence of Iranian officials.

Additional Relief Convoy Sent to Nakhichevan

LD1206101392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Another convoy of gifts from the people of Western Azerbaijan Province entered Nakhichevan as a continuation of the Islamic Republic of Iran's humanitarian assistance to the war-stricken and homeless people of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan. The convoy carries 500 tents, 5,000 blankets, 500 containers for water, and a large number of other necessary equipment.

According to a report by a Central News Unit correspondent dispatched to the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan, a camp with a capacity of 4,000 people has been set up by the delegation sent from Urumiyyeh for further coordinating relief for the refugees in Nakhichevan border areas.

It is worth mentioning that in clashes between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan—which have extended to Nakhichevan—in Sadarak alone, which is a suburb of Nakhichevan, 11,000 have been made homeless.

Nepal & Bhutan

Koirala 'Not Optimistic' About Earth Summit

BK1006101892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Kathmandu, June 10 (AFP)—Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala left Wednesday for the Earth Summit, saying he was pessimistic about the chances for solid progress on protection of the world's environment.

"I am not optimistic about concrete achievements" he said at the airport before departing for Rio de Janeiro.

Koirala told reporters the Himalayas, largely found in Nepal, should be given priority because of the mountain chain's importance to the regional and world environments, and said emphasis must be placed on population control.

Nepal is struggling with a birth rate considered too high by the government.

Koirala, accompanied by Agriculture Minister Sailja Acharya and other senior officials, is also to use the trip to meet with leaders of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation countries.

En route home he will stop in Germany to meet Chancellor Helmut Kohl and undergo a medical checkup.

'Stormy' Parliament Session Expected 29 Jun

BK1006103692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1027 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Kathmandu, June 10 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal has summoned the third session of Nepal's parliament to begin on the afternoon of June 29, the Royal Palace said here Wednesday.

Observers said they expect the session to be a stormy one in view of the stinging defeat of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) in recent nationwide local elections.

The ruling Nepali Congress party has won almost half of the approximately 44,500 municipal posts decided thus far, with the rival NCP-UML far behind with barely one-quarter.

The results of the remaining 750 posts are expected to be announced by Thursday, the election commission said.

During the forthcoming parliamentary session, various opposition parties are expected to attack the government with allegations that it rigged local polls in complicity with local administrators.

NCP-UML parliamentary leader Man Mohan Adhikari told AFP that his party would also attack the government for its signing of a water resources agreement with India which his party deems to be against Nepal's interest, as well as provisions of Nepal's constitution.

Nepali Congress president Krishna Prasad Bhattarai has strongly denied the allegations of electoral misconduct and alleged that communist supporters used hired hoodlums at some polling booths and set up activists from his party.

There will also be plenty of parliamentary business on the agenda, with the government preparing to table at least 52 bills on newly announced commercial and industrial policies, labour reforms and other measures.

A new budget and development programs must also be debated.

However, in view of his party's comfortable parliamentary majority, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala is confident of facing down the opposition and moving on Nepali Congress pledges to improve the economy and help the rural poor, a party official said..

Pakistan

U.S. Criticized for Policy Shift on Islamabad

BK1106110292 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Jun 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Double Standards"]

[Text] The reports that have been coming for sometime of the US tightening the screws on Pakistan, not just on the nuclear issue but on every issue that Pakistan considers vital, marks a shift in American policy, which everyone including our Foreign Office should take serious note of. On the nuclear issue, all financial and military aid was denied to Pakistan on the one hand, and naval exercises with India were organised on the other, to show to everyone who would care to see, where US's new priorities lay. Then came Kashmir where India was found by India civil rights workers themselves, to have been guilty of large-scale violation of human rights. When Pakistan began raising this issue at the internatioal level and sought the help of the world to not only prevent that but also support the indigenous nature of the struggle for freedom that the Kashmiris had launched, the US chose to give a rap on Pakistan's knuckles. Secretary Baker thought it fit to tell Pakistan to stay away from Kashmir, implying that Kashmir was an integral part of India and not a disputed territory as the UN resolutions acknowledge, and threatened to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. He has refused to accept Pakistan's explanation that the Kashmiri freedom struggle is, like most independence struggles of the world, actually being waged against an oppressive rule. That Secretary Baker's own department had, at more or less the same time, prepared a fairly-detailed report on human rights violations by the Indian Government and actually published it, seemed to have mattered little.

The only superpower of the world, the torch-bearer of international morality and the sponsor of the 'New World Order', does not see Israel as a terrorist state when it bombs Lebanon virtually every day, it did not see India as a terrorist state when it openly sent Tamil guerillas into Sri Lanka. And most interesting of all, it had felt no qualms in funding and arming the rebels in Nicaragua, who did not even have the fig-leaf of democracy for their cause. It has felt little hesitation in espousing the student revolt in China and actually penalised China for restoring law and order. One could go on citing instance after instance of the double standards that American leadership has, without ever feeling the slightest embarrassment. And yet America schooses to warn Pakistan to desist or feel the full weight of a superpower's sir. Pakistan is not tasking for any favours by only seeking the world community's attention to the brutalisation of a people, whose right to choose their own government is internationally recognised. Surely not everyone in the State Department is that hypnotised by the overblown image of India as the so-called largest democracy of the world, not to see the contradictions in American policies.

French Supply of Nuclear Plant Ruled Out

BK1006160992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Pakistan has expressed the hope that with flexibility on the part of the developed world it will be possible to reach a consensus on the unresolved issues at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to make it a great success. This will mark the beginning of a new era of international cooperation and worldwide prosperity. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman said that Pakistan, as current chairman of the Group of 77 of developing countries, will make efforts to help facilitate consensus between the developed and developing countries on a number of issues which still remain unresolved. Pakistan's basic objective at the conference will be to project not only our own national position on environmental issues in close coordination with other developing countries, but also the point of view of developing countries on environment and related issues which are similar, if not identical. The developing countries would like to pay adequate attention to environmental issues in their development programs, and this calls for transfer of additional financial resources and relevant technology to developing countries by the developed nations.

On the upcoming meeting between the prime ministers of Pakistan and India, the spokesman said that Pakistan hopes that Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and Narasimha Rao will have detailed exchange of views on matters of mutual interest. The Foreign Office spokesman said that Pakistan attaches great importance to this meeting and hopes that it will be meaningful and fruitful and will also pave the way for a purposeful dialogue between Pakistan and India in resolving all pending issues and differences, especially a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute. He also hoped that the meeting will facilitate improvement of ties between the two countries.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that Pakistan's stand on Kashmir is clear and it is well-known that Kashmir remains an unresolved issue, and the fact is recognized not only by the UN resolutions but by the Simla Agreement as well, to which the Indian Government makes frequent references.

On the nuclear issue, the spokesman reaffirmed Pakistan's stand that it will accept complete nuclear safeguards on all its nuclear programs provided India also does so. He said France, in accordance with its amended policy on export of nuclear materials, is supplying nuclear power plants to countries which accept safeguards on all their nuclear facilities. Therefore, there is no possibility of its supplying the proposed nuclear power plant to Pakistan. France had hinted during the prime minister's visit to France in January this year that it was ready to provide a nuclear plant to Pakistan under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards. Although no agreements have been signed, talks are expected to be held in this regard.

Western 'Flexibility' Needed at Earth Summit

BK1006120692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Pakistan has expressed the hope that with flexibility on the part of the developed world it would be possible to reach a consensus on the unresolved issues at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro to make it a great success. This would mark the beginning of a new era of international cooperation and worldwide prosperity. Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman said Pakistan as current chairman of the Group of 77 of developing countries would make efforts to help facilitate consensus between the developed and developing countries on a number of issues which still remain unresolved. The prime minister who will arrive in Rio de Janeiro tomorrow morning would make keynote address to the conference on Saturday [13 January] in his capacity as the chairman of the Group of 77 representing 129 developing countries. Pakistan's basic objective at the conference would be to project not only our own national position on environmental issues in close coordination with other developing countries, but also the point of view of developing countries on environment and related issues which are similar, if not identical.

Spokesman on Rio Summit, Kashmir, Agni Missile

BK1006145792 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Rio summit will mark a new beginning in the international cooperation not only in the environmental concerns, but also ushering in an era of sustained

progress and prosperity throughout the globe, particularly the Third World countries. He said the basic objective of [Pakistan at] the environment conference is to project our national position on environmental issues in close cooperation with other developing countries.

The spokesman stated in categorical terms that Pakistan, India and the people of Kashmir are the parties to the Kashmir issue. About the reported statement of the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, that Pakistan is not a party to the issue, the spokesman said all the three are parties to this issue and it is recognized in the relevant UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement, to which India makes frequent references. The spokesman expressed the hope that the forthcoming meeting between the prime minister and his Indian counterpart, Mr. Narasimha Rao, at Rio de Janeiro would lead to a substantive dialogue on this important issue.

When asked whether Pakistan and China are adopting some coordinated approach for their apprehensions about the testing of Agni missile by India, the spokesman said that Pakistan is rightly concerned over the development of Agni missile and our concerns are well-known to the Chinese Government.

'Embarassment' in Army Following Sindh Violence

BK1106101992 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Jun 92 pp 1,5

[Text] Karachi—The military top brass on Wednesday decided to replace the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Hyderabad, Major-General Saleem Ishaq, and certain other officers in the wake cold blooded murder of nine villagers of Goth Bahawal last weekend, informed sources told The News. [sentence as published]

The decision was taken at a high level meeting at the General Head Quarters [GHQ] which was attended by Chief of General Staff Lt-General Farrukh Khan, Director General Military Intelligence Major General Mushtaq, Director Geneeral Military Operations Major General Arshad Choudhary, and other senior military officials.

The meeting was held to discuss the preliminary report sent to the GHQ on the Jamshoro incident and its repercussions on the ongoing Sindh operation.

The main concern of the army hierarchy, sources said, was to restore the shaken confidence of the people in the operation and the institution itself.

A concerned COAS [Chief Of Army Staff] has ordered stern action against the uniformed personnel involved in the so-called encounter. The incident, sources said, has brought lot of embarrassment to the army which was asked to play its role in aid of civil power.

An army major and other uniformed personnel, who were involved in the incident, have been taken into custody by the Military Intelligence and, according to suggestions, escorted from Hyuderabad to an undisclosed destination.

Although army sources declined to confirm the arrests, a senior official conceded that "they were being interrogated as part of the investigation."

The COAS, sources said, has ordered an inquiry into the tragedy and asked the GOC Hyderabad to submit his report at the earliest. But in the changed situation where his transfer has been agreed upon, it was likely that the inquiry may be assigned to some other senior army officer.

Sources in Hyderabad were, however, unable to confirm whether the names of the army officers were included in the FIR [First Information Report]. It is likely that their case is dealt with separately under army law. The army top brass, after discovering that those killed were not terrorists, sources said, were surprised and confused as to how the executioners managed to show recovery of arms which could only be used for terrorists activities.

The incident, according to the opinion expressed by some senior military officials, was multidimensional in nature and would have a far-reaching impart on the Sindh operation and efforts for restoring normality in respect of law and order situation in the province.

Furthermore, the incident could be used to dilute and weaken Pakistan's point of view on Indian involvement in Sindh affairs.

The COAS, during Wednesday's meeting, sources said, instructed that facts of the incident and the results of the investigation should be made public.

He further said that nobody should be spared irrespective of how influential he was. Under the changed situation, the COAS has instructed some changes in the operational plan as well, sources added.

It has also been decided that from now onwards, the army would act on the reports of its own agencies and would not depend on routine police reports.

International Drug Smuggling Ring Smashed

BK1106101192 Islamabad THE NATION in English 11 Jun 92 pp 1, 16

[By Shakeel Anjum]

[Text] Rawalpindi—Busting an international gang of drug smugglers, police recovered a huge quantity of heroin worth millions of rupees and nabbed two of the big guns of the gang in Cantt Circle, on Wednesday morning.

This was disclosed by Senior Superintendent of Police, Rao Mohammad Iqbal. While addressing a hurriedly called Press conference in his office here on the evening.

Despite two incidents of "police salaries robbery case" and "rifle snatching from cops", the SSP asserted during the press conference that police have complete control over the law and order situation in the district.

The SSP disclosed that the ASP [Assistant Superintendent of Police] Cantt was informed by his own sources that a gang of heroin smugglers was active in the city and busy in dealing a huge quantity of drugs with an international drug traffickers.

Following the information the ASP Cantt Bini Amin started chasing the gang when some members of the clique booked a room in Al Azam Hotel, Saddar, to deal with the gang. But the accused involved in the activities changed two hotels perceiving police vigilance and finally booked a room in Salateen Hotel.

On Wednesday morning the SSP maintained the police was informed by informers that a Suzuki Car No (PRC-7164) with two persons had proceeded towards Qasim Market, Peshawar Road. On this information a heavy contingent of police was deputed in plain clothes to arrest the smugglers. At about 11 am when the car reached Qasim Market it was surrounded and 30 kilograms of heroin recovered from the car and two persons namely Gul Khan and Said Zaman armed with pistols arrested.

Soon after the successful raid an investigation team headed by ASP Cantt was constituted, the SSP added. The accused, during initial investigation, disclosed that one Tooti Khan of Barra who was the ring leader of the gang after getting heroin at the rate of Rs [Rupees] 32,000 per kilogram used to sell it to the other party in Rawalpindi at the rate of Rs 35,000 per kg. The accused said that the drug used to be supplied to Lahore, Okara, Sialkot, Gujranwala and Kasur. They said that the the drug was used to be transported to Rawalpindi in three stages, first from Barra to Peshawar, second from Peshawar to attack bridge and third from attack bridge to Rawalpindi.

SSP, Rao Mohammad Iqbal, replying to a question condemned attitude of some newsmen towards Rawalpindi police said that a newspaper had tried to twist the news regarding "a rifle snaching from a cop". The SSP said that some transporters had quarrell with a police party on duty at Mohra Nasir near Wah Cantt, a few days back who went away after threatening the policemen. The very next day a coaster with more than 10 persons rushed to the venue and attacked the policeman on duty. The SSP said that the attackers snatched a rifle from the scene. He said the police had arrested one of the attackers. Humayun Khan, and recovered the snatched rifle. He said the other accused would be arrested soon.

The SSP said that some of the newsmen had tried to give an impression that the police have lost control over enforcemnet of law, but he added that the police is a symbol of strength of the government and its powers would not be weakened. He claimed that the police have complete control over the law and order situation and would always fight against anti-social elements. However, the SSP did not mention the police salaries robbery case on June 1 when two masked decoits looted Rs 256,000 From an armed police officer in uniform in broad daylight.

Sri Lanka

Battles, Casualties in North, East Detailed

BK1006114092 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] The troops of Operation Saptabala [seven forces] were reported to be consolidating their positions at Komalamunai, the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's] stronghold which they captured on Sunday [6 June] after fierce fighting. The security forces are now in control of the major Tiger sea supply route of men and material to Prabhakaran's 14-base complex in the jungles of the Mullaitivu district.

Meanwhile, the Joint Operations Command [JOC] in Colombo reported that nearly 30 LTTE terrorists were killed when security forces commenced their final advance faced toward Komalamunai in the Mullaitivu district. The JOC told LANKAPUVATH that amid stiff resistance from the LTTE, the troops were able to clear the Komalamunai area. During the day's fighting, two soldiers were killed, while nine others were wounded. The JOC said LTTE terrorists caused heavy damages to electrical transformers in several areas in the Trincomalee district.

At least 20 terrorists were killed yesterday as troops fought back after being ambushed by the LTTE in northern and eastern provinces. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that a group of 32 soldiers were ambushed by about 200 terrorists at a point between Mihindapura and Arippu in the eastern Trincomalee district. The soldiers, though heavily outnumbered, fought back courageously, killing at least 20 terrorists. The soldiers said the body of a dead terrorist and two weapons were recovered.

Government Launches Offensive

BK1106125592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Colombo, June 11 (AFP)—Fierce fighting broke out in northern Sri Lanka Thursday after troops launched a fresh offensive against Tamil guerrillas losing nine of their own men and killing some 50 rebels, officials said.

Heavily-armed troops backed by air cover and an indefinite curfew launched the offensive against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas in the rebel stronghold of Jaffna peninsula, a military spokesman said.

Chief military spokesman Colonel Sarath Munasinghe told reporters that renewed fighting near Thellippallai in Jaffna had so far killed nine soldiers and an estimated 50 LTTE guerrillas.

The offensive came amid an indefinite curfew since Wednesday covering virtually the entire northern province, large parts of which are under LTTE control.

A major military drive launched against LTTE positions in the northeast on May 28 ended four days later in the Jaffna peninsula but was continued in northeast Mullaitivu district.

More Than 70 Killed

BK1106133792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Colombo, June 11 (AFP)—Hundreds of government troops Thursday overran a key coastal area held by Tamil guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka amid heavy fighting that left 15 soldiers and about 50 rebels dead, officials here said. A military spokesman said that security forces killed eight more rebels in four separate incidents elsewhere in the region.

Ground troops backed by helicopter gunships captured the Senthankulam area from Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas after advancing northwest from bases in Thellippillai in the Jaffna peninsula, officials said.

"Our men are at the beach at Senthankulam. We have chased the Tigers out. We lost 15 and 16 were wounded during heavy fighting along the route from Thellippillai," a military spokesman said.

He said LTTE casualties were "extremely high" but exact figures were not immediately available.

Chief military spokesman Colonel Sarath Munasinghe told reporters earlier that the LTTE had suffered an estimated 50 dead during fierce battles that erupted shortly after the military launched a fresh offensive Thursday.

Government forces captured Thellippillai, a small rebel-held town lying south of the main Palaly air base, last week during a major assault on Tiger positions in the northeast.

Military officials said the capture of Senthankulam would curb rebel activity along a vast coastal stretch that also covered the Palaly base in the LTTE-controlled Jaffna peninsula.

"The army has now expanded its area of control inside Tiger territory by a further eight to 10 square kilometers (three to four square miles)," the spokesman said, adding troops had advanced about eight kilometers (five miles) from Thellippillai.

Colonel Munasinghe said that the aim of the current operation, spearheaded by a brigade—between 1,800 and 2,400 soldiers—was to draw out as many guerrillas as possible.

"Operations were launched this morning in the Jaffna peninsula with a view to kill as many terrorists as possible and expand the area under security force control," he said.

The military attacks came a day after a lieutenant colonel, two other officers and two soldiers were blown up when their jeep hit a rebel mine in the north.

The army advance also came as ground troops consolidated positions in northeast Mullaitivu after driving out Tiger guerrillas from jungle areas in the region.

Thursday's army casualties took to 129 the number killed since May 28 when a major military campaign got under way in the northeast. The military has estimated that more than 300 militants have been killed during the same period.

Security forces estimated that there were between 2,000 and 3,000 Tiger militants entrenched in the peninsula which has been the main theatre of fighting in the northeastern war zone.

The latest military drive coincided with the second anniversary of the day the LTTE renewed its campaign for a separate state in the northeast following the collapse of 14 months of peace talks with the government.

According to official and unofficial estimates more than 7,000 civilians, nearly 2,500 security personnel and 8,500 Tamil rebels have been killed in renewed fighting since June 11, 1990.

Fifteen Soldiers Die in Fighting

BK1206114492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] The security forces launched another offensive operation against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the Jaffna peninsula yesterday. Colonel Sarath Munasinghe of the Joint Operations Command told newsmen yesterday that the main purpose of this operation is to expand the area of control by the security forces. He said that the operation commenced around the Tellippalai area and the security forces were able to move two km northwest from Tellippalai by today. Fifty LTTE terrorists were killed in fiece fighting at close range. Col. Munasinghe disclosed that one-fourth of the Jaffna peninsula is now under the control of the security forces. He emphasized that all possible weapons available with them would be used to weaken the position of the LTTE in the north. In limited operations in the districts of Batticaloa, Amparai, and Trincomalee, eight

LTTE terrorists were killed and large stock of arms and ammunitions and dry rations were seized. Presidential adviser on international relations, Bradman Weerakoon, was also present at the news conference.

At least 75 hard-core LTTE terrorists were yesterday killed as troops of Operation Whirlwind, Chandamarutha, resumed their offensive against the LTTE and after fierce fighting captured the strategic northwestern central village of Senthakulam. Military spokesman Col. Sarath Munasinghe told LANKAPUVATH that last night the daylong battle ended with the troops taking Senthakulam. Senthakulam is south of Keerimalai on the northern coast. Col. Munasinghe said that a large number of LTTE fighting cadres, but were not hard-core terrorists, were also believed killed. Fifteen soldiers were also killed in action. He said government troops extended their area of control, [words indistinct] five square km northwest of Tellippalai.

1991 Agricultural Exports Fetch 200 Million Rupees

BK1106123492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign exchange earnings through the export of agricultural products have increased. According to the agricultural export department, earnings last year were 200 million rupees. The previous year's figure was 180 million rupees; 143 million rupees was earned from the export of cinnamon. [Word indistinct] and pepper was 14 million rupees and from clothes six million rupees. Statistics of the department disclosed that the quantity exported also increased by 10 percent.

Iranian Delegation Discusses Trade Cooperation

BK1006114692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] A delegation from Iran led by Dr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, called on the minister of plantation industries, Rupasena Karunatilleke, in Colombo recently. They discussed various aspects to establish stronger trade relations with Iran in respect of tea, rubber, and other items. The Iranian delegation expressed their keenness to set up a second tire factory in Sri Lanka. Raw materials will be purchased from Sri Lanka and the factory will produce tires of various sizes to meet the requirements of Iran as well as other countries. With regard to tea, they inquired whether there was a possibility of sending out a team of experts from Sri Lanka to Iran to improve the quality of their tea. They further remarked that certain [word indistinct] which they have received on an exchange program between the two countries have been tried out. Iran has agreed to organize tea sales to the five former Islamic republics of the Soviet Union—Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan—who have close economic and cultural ties with Iran.

Railroad Agreement Signed With Pakistan

BK1106112392 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Sri Lanka and Pakistan have signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of railways. An official statement issued in Islamabad yesterday said that Pakistan was (?earnest) to consider shifting to Sri Lanka a factory capable of producing 100,000 concrete railway slippers yearly. According to the statement, Sri Lanka has also shown interest in purchasing railway equipment including wagons from Pakistan against a $5 million credit already extended by Islamabad. The minister for transport and highways, Wijayapala Mendis, who is on a visit to Pakistan, signed the Agreement in Islamabad yesterday. He also sought assistance from Pakistan to complete a 110-km railway line from Matara to Kataragama in Sri Lanka.